

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Robinson, John

[Peabody Museum
Salem, MA]

1904-1907

(1 of 3)

Peabody Museum,

Salem, Feb. 15/ 04.

My dear Sir:

It will give me great pleasure to show you my oriental coins and I can do so any Sunday morning. In the afternoon I am usually engaged. At present I am not living in my house in Salem, but board at the Essex House, so that I can not offer the hospitality of my own home on the occasion of your visit, but I have taken the precaution to have a room where I can look over the coins and books and can meet you, ~~either~~ at the station or the Essex House, and take you to the room at once. I fear, however, that you will be disappointed at the weakness of my series of Indian coins, ^{for} ~~as~~ I do not especially seek for them. My hobby is Chinese coins and I have a very good collection of them and of Japanese and the like. India, etc. comes in incidentally. My coin books you may find interesting. The Portugese-India coins I have, number ten only and are the usual lead coins and two or three modern affairs. The only notice I find in any of my books regarding Port.-Ind. coins is in Thurston, on the coins in the Madras museum, where about 75 are cataloged. Let me know when you can come down and I will be on hand and do the best I can for you. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salun, March 1, 1904

Dear Mr. W.

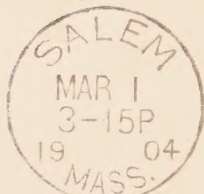
Your note is just at hand. Will gladly lend you the books - Will be at the Essey when you call & we will get the Ledchants then - I thank you for the addresses - I shall order some of the hats -

Trains go up to Boston

9 - 10 - 11 o'clock

Very truly
Yours

John Robinson

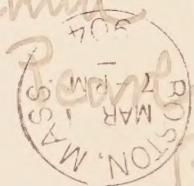


THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.

POSTAL CARD.

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mrs. Harland Wood
92 Pearl St.
Boston



Dear Mr. Wood -

Later, after you left, I cut
the leaves of the quarto pamphlet
just arrived and found
found it to be a paper by
our old friend Bergsøe, ^{which} I
had ordered, serving a reference
to it in the sale catalog of
his collection - It is: -

"Franklin - Monte (1644-1845) Count
Monte of Medailler redoublée des
dantes Handel pour Astudien, China
of Guinea (1650-1777). Af Vilhelm Bergsøe"
(we can guess what it is all about)

68 p., 2 Pl. wood cuts, with the
same cuts set in against the
descriptions in the text in their
proper places— The ill. all refer
to Trankebar which covers 52 pages.
The others are merely descriptions—

You may like to take this with
you some day— I shall
soon write for the catalog
you kindly gave me the
addresses to use—

Yours
S. J. G.
John Robinson

MS. 3.

Saline March 6/04

My dear Mr. Wood -

You are very kind
to take the trouble to get
the strings of cash for me
and I am exceedingly
glad to have them all
and enclose my
check for the amount -
But how am I to re-
munerate the young man

who brought the
weighty mass to me?
If I knew what to do
I would send now—
Should it be tickets or
cash?

The strings are just what
I want to supplement the
regular collection if I ever
exhibit it in a permanent
place, which I hope to do
when one of the institutions
here have a suitable room.

I thank you for your effort to get the large coin and if you ever happen to find one any time I shall be very glad to have it -

I saw a catalog of the London dealer's ^{whose} you enclose which included the coins in a lump, but this divides them - It is

have to pick them out
exactly by the list - I
will look it over carefully
and return it to you -
I have written the name
for hats and the others
whose addresses you so
kindly gave me for
catalogs. With many thanks
I am Yours Very Truly

John Robinson

P.S. On the whole I conclude to
add a dollar to the check & you can
ask the young man to take it, -
for his expenses -

Salun, Nov. 22, 1904

My dear Mr. Wood,

Unfortunately I have engagements for Wed. Thursday and Saturday evenings of this week but if you come down I will have the v.d. chips at the Essey House for you - I shall be obliged to go out quite early, by 7.30 - Should you conclude to come Friday I shall be at home that evening

You need not take the trouble
to come to Salem just to
return the books for I will
trust to Merrett's Salem Exp
However I shall be glad
to see you anytime and
if you have any books
you care to take -

Saml

Very Truly Yours
Amos A. Brown

Salun, April 12.


My dear Mr. Wood:

I am very glad that
the books proved useful
and perhaps I may
have others you will
like later. I did get
the coin with the
Chinese - Arabic and -

cription and will send
you a rubbing of it.
Probably it is ^{from} some
one of the many
States having the
same name - I have not
had a chance to
look it up - I have
ordered a full
set of that country

with & without inscriptions and will let you know when I get them and ^{also} will, to morrow, enclose a memo. of the one at the Dickinson

At the same sale I got a nice fat ^QC copper 1786 and

two  equally fast
which I did not happen
to have before—

Do you care to see
Vissering's "Chinese Currency"
in English; an essay on
the history of monetary
affairs in China? I
got it from the Hague
last week. — I am
Very truly Yours
John R. Brown

Salem, May 31

My dear Gen. Wood -

I shall be very glad
to visit you and to
see your collection, and
unless you want me
to decide on the day
at once, I should like
to leave it open until
I hear from my son

who comes home one
of these Sundays, - I
do not know which.
I have written him to
find out and let me
know at once. I will
bring the coins you
ask for then.

I am glad you gave
me the specific di-
rections for, although
I have been at work

kind constantly in
other sections & are
not very familiar with
this region except in
a very general way—

I anticipate much
pleasantness in seeing
you and will write
or wire you the moment
I hear from John—
Love

Very Truly Yours
Robert Edinosa

Salem, June 3

My dear Mr. Wood -

I have just heard
from my son and he
is to pass this Sunday,
June 5, in Salem so,
if perfectly satisfactory to
you, I will accept
your kind invitation

For Sunday June 12 and
will, I think, reach
Providence about 12
o'clock if the trains
are not changed,
which I imagine they
will not be materially.
From Salem - Your maps
is my will - Love
Very truly Yours
John R. Brown

My dear Mr. Wood -

I send this merely
to say that I shall
be out on Sunday
morning about 11.30
or 12 I should think.
Your little maps
will take me

directly to your house -
I am

Very truly Yours
John Robinson

I am
Dear 10/04

Saline June 22

My dear Mr. Wood -

The coins came
safely and I am very glad
to get those you en-
closed for me - You
did not make any
memo. of the prices
and if you will
let me know I
will remit the

amount - I will
remember me to your
father and mother
and say I looked
at the Haffneshill
plate at the Essex
Institute collection in
Salmon and found it
to be a lighter color
than yours and not
so fine a texture -
If you wish to see

not seen that collec-
tion she will be inter-
ested in it, although
not a large one there
a number of good
things. I was much
surprised at the
large collection you
had of European coins
& their historical inter-
est as you have
them arranged.

Wishing to see you
here again some
time Love
Very Truly Yours
John Edwards

Salem, July 6. 04
My dear Mr. Wood -

I write in haste
to give you the
Stickney address -

Miss Cornelia } Stickney
Miss Lucy }

119 Boston St. Salem -

I want to see them

29
I am three years ^{ago} for
low but they were afraid
to trust him or any one
in the matter & thought
the commission of 25%
awful— although they
say that they would like
to sell still they are
quite coy about it—

Very sincerely yours
John Robinson

PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE,
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.

Founded, 1867 (Museum established by East India
Marine Society in 1799).

GEORGE AUGUSTUS PEABODY, PRESIDENT.
JOHN ROBINSON, TREASURER.
EDWARD S. MORSE, DIRECTOR.

East India Marine Hall,

Salem, Mass., July 19, 1904

My dear Mr. Wood -

I made a rubbing of
the Tibetan coin which
is enclosed and which
I hope will be satisfactory -
and take this opportunity to
send the \$1.50 I owe you -
The last Journal came to
day & your article is very
fine -
Yours in haste
Sincerely yours
John Robinson

Salem, Oct. 13, 1904:

My dear Mr. Wood:

I have just received the Journal of Numismatics for July with your article on the Siamese coins. It is very interesting and valuable and reminds me that I have picked up, here and there, a few oriental coins this season, or since I have seen you, and, if you like, can send them to you for examination. There are two or three of the Malay-Siam-Chinesque sort among them. I doubt if there any which are new to you, however.

I see also your enitials at the end of the article on the coins of the Mahdi.

When I was a boy I used to see Mr. Stickney's coins and knew, intimately, Mr H.M.Brooks, one of the old collectors of N.A. coins. This was about 1859-63. My impression is that it was well known ^{then} or currently supposed, that the Stickney 1804 dollar was a comparatively recent strike from the 1804 die, not used when made for some reason, but found at the mint, later, and from which a few, more or less, impressions were made and given in exchange to collectors who dealt with the mint authorities. This seems to agree with the article on p. 28 of the Journal.

If you want the coins kindly let me know and I will send them to any address you like, office or home. I hope you are well.

I am Sincerely Yours

John Robinson

Dear Mrs Wood

I send 12 coins, some
of which you have already
seen I feel sure but to make
sure I send them all -

I shall be very glad if
you will mark the encl.
over with your determinations

I am in haste

Yours

John Lubbock

Salut Oct 16/04

My dear Mr. Wood -

Any evening which will
be convenient for you will
be so for me this week &
I shall be very glad to
see you - Let me know
which day and I will be
at the Essex House and we
will go to my room from
there -

I congratulate you on your

numismatological honor
and hope it carries
a salary with it also.

I can not imagine any
one better fitted for the
position and your interest
will increase by having
this to stimulate it.

Then expecting you soon

I am Very truly yours

John R. Brown
Salem Oct 20/90

My dear Mr. Wood -

The Korean 3 came today - I thank you very much for letting me have it as I have tried to find one for a long time -

You must arrange to make me settle for

the coins you have
tried at our bank
for I am not enough
in the market to
get duplicates often
which you are likely
to see for

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson
I am Nov. 11, 1894

My dear Mr. Wood-

Your exceedingly concise
and readable account
of the French coinage
in the Journal of Numis-
matics just received, in-
terested me very much
and I am much
indebted to you for
the copy - I have

sent Mr. McVine a
subscription for the
year to cover the
contribution.

The Essex Institute has
a set (?), some four
or five gold Fiamme
coins given about
thirty years ago. I
think I can borrow

the same time for you
to see if you can
not happen to be
in Salem when the
E. L. rooms are open -

The "Ordnung". Ethnograph-
isch, Schmidt I think,
has something about the
porcelain counters -

Siegel (Prof. G.) Tiamesische und chinesische
Medaillen 147 f. 31 m. platt.



I thank you for the
article - Sincerely Yours
Frank Robinson
Jan 4/24

Numismatic münzen 1241²⁵⁴ Vol II Pl XVI

Salun, NW. 12. 1904

My dear Mr. Wood -

I have just received:-

Cat. der Munten en amsletten
van China, Japan, Ceylon en Annam re-
kerende tot de Missionar. Verzamel. van
het Bataviaasch Genoot. van Kunsten en
Wetenschappen door Z. N. Stuart etc
1904. Batavia" It seems to be a
cat. illus only by diagrams of the
dots etc. on certain pieces - , ,
etc. - If you have not seen it
you may wish to take it —

Mr. Wm Louis Oppeltin also in

Tell me a few days ago and
in conversation with Dan Jenkins
of the Museum, said that
the trustees of his father's est. wanted
to have the coin collection his
father left left in Boston & would
sell it at \$32,000. to any such
institution as the Art Museum -
It was valued at the lowest by
those who had estimated it at
\$38,000. He seemed to think that
it would be well to have coin
collectors with their opinions of the
desirability of keeping such a

collection in this neighborhood,
thinking, perhaps, that a subscrip-
tion could be made of, say -
15,000. if the M.F.A. could put
out 15-17,000 for it -

It seems to me that there ought
to be a coin collection here &
this would be a fine nucleus
for it -

I wish the M.F.A. could do so
& put you in as curator -

It seems to me, however, that the
decision is well up to the

Amie - Hope you are well

Love faithfully yours

John Emerson

Sunday Nov. 28.

My dear Mr. Wood

I shall be very
glad to see you

Wednesday evening.

Yours very truly

John Brown

Salem, Dec. 11/04

My dear Mr. Wood.

It seems to me that the majority of the coins you kindly sent me for selection are quite reasonable in price for I compared them with those in the Burgess sale and found them much less - I have taken all the good ones I needed and return the others with the

check for \$9.50.

24	Ceylon	3.
48	"	3.50
14	"	.75
1/24	"	1.25
Don. Ind		1.00

You have led
me into temp-
tation — It may
seem a rather

erratic way of collecting but
sentiment has led me to
collect coins in the line
I started as a boy in 1857,
omitting Americana, which
all boys begin with — I
had some Chinese, Japanese

and Dutch ^{English} E. I. coins. So
I have continued collecting
on the basis of what I
found among my father's ef-
fects - Now that I have
a definite object it seems
well to collect on the line
of Salem early trade in the
East. Therefore I think I shall
start with Constantinople and
having a very few illustrations
of Turkish & Arab & African

coins, jump to India & the
farther eastern series. It
is no use to attempt to
get everything but have
a good representation of the
different states & a selection
of coins & objects related to them
interesting in a public place
of exhibition - I think I
shall thus have some merit
to the collection - I shall
like to see your new first-
book money -
Yours truly
Samuel Johnson

My dear Mr. Wood:

I thank you for smiling
me the Chinese charm and
think I better keep it -
I do not go in for gold
saucers either but there are
so few Chinese gold coins
and there are only amulets
that a few will be
available - I have two

now in the form of gold
cash made about 1840
I think. This is the
annulet form and quite
different. In the
evening I will go and
look at the Moonish
coins you inquire about
and let you know regard-
ing the 2.

I enclose my check for \$4.

I am very busy & tired. We
are moving into the new
room at the Museum
and are obliged to
hurry to open it at a
certain date much to my
disgust.

I am,
Sincerely yours,
John Robinson

Alan Xu 23-24/07

Salun, Jan 18, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood:

I thank you for the note regarding the Amsterdam collection for I had written for a priced catalog and shall now know what to expect. I bid \$10. + \$8 on the Chinese ingots not knowing what they are worth. I did not consider the Siamese because

The Essex Institute has an even
fair lot and that would
go with my coins if I
set up the collection there
any day— If you let
me know any time of
lots at sales you are
after I will not bid
on them for I do not
bid often or high and
will gladly give you

first chance as you are
doing me many favors.

I am in such a rush now
at the Museum arranging
things to help Prof. Morse
open the new part to the
contributors Jan 3, that
I have little time for
any matters of my own
and get very tired by

evening - I shall return
your priced catalog the
first chance I have -
hoping you will get the
framed coins soon

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Lynn, Saty. Am.
Jan 28, 1905

My dear Mr Wood

Unfortunately I ordered
my Stephanik catalog from
Nijhoff while sending
for some pamphlets and
have not as yet received
it. So I shall not be

able to join you in sending
my love - I wish I
had asked you to get
mine - I was so
busy with the museum
work, - which I am
thankful to say is
nearly done, - that I
did not ~~not~~ send a

bid to the sale -

I am very glad you
got the Siamese lot
in N. Y. It was
was small I should
think - I am
in haste sincerely
Yours
John Robinson

Salem, Feb. 12, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood

You may be surprised to know that I have concluded to give my entire collection of Oriental coins and books covering the same ground to the Essex Institute in Salem and have already

sent them to the Institute
rooms. There is a Chinese
library and a fund to
maintain it and pro-
vision for a memorial
room to contain it
in any new building the
Institute may build ^{into which the coins will go} so
that this seems to be
a good time to re-
arrange the collection

to make it ready to go
into such a room which
may be provided in a
year or two - Already
~~it~~^{the Institute} has a very pleasant
room devoted to the purpose
The Institute will provide
a suitable case or
cabinet for the coins -

I do not expect to add
my mss to the collection,
that is, not large
numbers of coins - It
can be rounded out
as well there as if
e. in my own room -
And if I go to Hongkong
in a year or so, then I
should ^{not} move it any way -
If you care to do so

you can make a note ²
in the Numismatist about
it as you know better
than I do the real
value of the collections.

I am in doubt as to
management and
later should like to
ask your advice—

Hoping you are

will these varied
days of snow & blow
Lumain

Sincerely yours

John Robinson

Salun, Feb. 17, 1905

My dear Mr. Ward-

I thank you for sending
the Japanese coins and find
I have the gold and smaller
silver ones, but the larger silver
is just between my largest
and the other in size - I
send the P. with this -

You are very kind to offer
to assist me with the

plans for rearranging
the collection and just
as soon as the matter
gets in shape I hope
you can come down
and talk it over - I
have taken coins and books
to the Institut's rooms and
established them nicely in
their new temporary quarters.
The books will be cataloged
and kept for the present

with the coins—

I have ordered a new book
on Japanese coins just out:

"Neil Gordon Munro: coins of J.
1904", and expect it soon.

I think the prices of the coins
you sent very reasonable
and the gold are especially
so.

By the way do you remember
the picture of the "Lavin"
of Arabia,—like the book

Mumy, — in the little
yellow covered book of
travels in Asia I have
1674? I had forgotten
it until today —

I am in haste
Very truly Yours
Samuel Johnson

Salem, Feb. 19, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood -

Excuse my neglect
in omitting the postage
on your letter enclo-
sing the coins after you
had the kindness to
send them to me

Sincerely yours
Samuel Johnson

I have got now the
Nunismatist since Jan.
1894
complete and am much
pleased to find so
much on coins of the
"Father East"

How can
I get the earlier
vols? J.D.

Leam. Feb. 28 1905

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am heartily glad
that you are to con-
sider the matter of
trying for the cura-
torship of the Fruit
collection and

I shall be delighted to
do anything I can
to aid you in it.

You are just the
one for the position
& the U. S. would be
mighty lucky to
secure your services.

It seems to me that
it is just the lack
of an educated mu-
sionmatist which has
prevented the mint
collection from holding
any position among
coin collections here
or receiving any ad-

ditions from the
public or the confi-
dence of those making
will to bequeath
corn. Let me pursue
what I can do -

I am

Sincerely Yours

John R. Brown

Saluv, March 28/68

My dear Mr. Wood-

Have you seen
Neil Gordon Munroe's
"Crises of Japan"?

It is very exhaustive &
evidently the work of one
who thoroughly knows the
subject-

I have had it a

shut that & given it
a first reading —

If you want it let
me know at one end
I will send it up &
you can keep it for
a week or two just
as well as not —

I am in haste

Sincerely yours

John Robinson

My dear Mr Wood.

I can not find the memorandum to night and must have misplaced it, but I am quite sure it was 11 florins, about 4.40 I paid for Munro's Japanese coins. I got it from Martinus Nijhoff, 18 Nieuwestraat at the Hague - I suppose Munro's would have it

as well. I am very
glad you enjoyed it
for I thought it ex-
cellent.

I have been making a cond
index of articles in the Numis-
matische on oriental coins
and find a very large number
many of which are valuable
contributions. I only have
from 1894 — 1905 and should
much like to pick up the
early volumes. There were a

Put in Adams' last sale but
I should have had to buy all
I now have -

If I can find my memo. I
will send it but think that
it is as given from memory -
I suppose ~~you~~ ^{you} need not send
the money with the order and
perhaps Quailin might get
for even less than Trifkoff -

Yours Very Truly Yours

John Robinson
Salem, Apr 3, 05

Salun. Apr. 7.05

My dear Mr. Wood-

I was at the point
of writing you this evening
when I received your
letter and Low's catalog-

I had the catalog from him
and have made a few
ticks on the Chinese lots

220. 225. 226. 367. 374. 375

I want very much to get
220, and 367 if it is what

the catalog describes, one of the
thing man not found in
the photo. plate of that sale.
I have bid on them \$3.25
& 4.50 respectively being
more than they sold for
before -

I also bid on the Pitt
taken with a ship on the
back -

We are making plans
for a coin case and
have decided to arrange

The collection in trays in
drawers about 19×13 inches
with strips to separate the
units. Each tray to be black
and hold a coin up to a
dollar size. The drawers to
be ~~lined~~ lined with dark
green velvet. The case
to be arranged with doors
to close the cabinets and
made in three sections.
The top made in museum.

style, like one figured in
the Olphauk ceru fall -



All of which
depends upon
the cost which
say \$200 -

is hoped will cost -

I thank you for kindly writing me
& will return the catalog, hoping
we may get what we want -

I am
Very truly yours
John Robinson

I am sending you
an amateurish sort
of catalog. Don't
bother to return it.
I should think a
person on hand
might get something
good out of it pos-
sibly

J. R.
Jan.
Apr. 13/05



BOSTON
APR 13
2-PM
1905

BROOKLINE
STATION



POSTAL CARD

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS
APR 13 10:30 AM 1905

Mr. Howland Wood
93 Perry St.
Brookline Mass.

Salem, April 18, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood:

I return the rubbing of the coin you send ~~and~~ ~~but~~ am unable to locate it. I suspect that it is not a coin, but some other object, especially as it is said to be nearly quarter of an inch thick. Can you find out what the inscription is all about?

I am seriously thinking of taking a little trip with Mrs. Robinson and including Philadelphia. Can you tell me of any places I ought to visit where I can see any collections of Chinese coins? I shall go to the Univ. Penn. and look up that collection and the mint. Also I may try New Haven and see what the old Williams collection is if possible. I hear that there is such. Williams wrote the "Middle Kingdom" and a Chinese Dictionary you know. What sort of a collection have the Chapmans in Phila? And is there any collection of Chinese coins in N.Y. If I go it will be about May 1. I have plied you with a lot of questions which if too much of a bother don't answer.

Your suggestions regarding the coin case are excellent and I had been drifting into the same direction mentally while considering the matter. I have roughed out a plan and given it to a cabinet maker to figure to see where we are in regard to the cost. To exhibit the drawers from time to time on top is a capital idea. I am working on the collection at odd times and think I may do a considerable at it this summer.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

I have written the boy with a Polish name late in 1905

Intervall Board 6th
Intervall R. 26. Aug. 3. 1905

My dear Mr. Wood.

I ought to be ashamed of myself for not writing you before this but I have been away from Salem practically ever since May 1 when I took the N.Y. trip. When in Salem for a few days the 'cans were in confusion, for I was trying to transfer them into the new cabinet which was finished the middle of June, and they are not yet arranged. I wanted to wait until they were in some sort of order before asking you to inspect them. So I have been in an irregular way all of the time. I saw the Chinese (Glass Coll.) at Washgton & the Phila. coll. at the Univ. Penn. Both were excellent; the Glass the best. I missed Chapman at Phila. but he has sent me a lot to select from up here at Intervall. I can not imagine why? They are excellent and I am going to ask your advice about some at the end of this letter. At N.Y. I saw the Anniswater for people

while they were very polite - showed me out
the coins - The man in my line, they were sent
in possession of a very good lot

I was in My. City-Market & the Auction House was
closed Sat. so I got late going down on ac-
count of a police procession - To Market I
called the last thing again & saw your friend, ^{Mr. May}
& found him a delightful man & even I
could have seen some of him & shall hope
to meet him this fall if he makes the proposed
eastern visit - I wish you & he could come to
Salmon & look around with me -

Mr. Orsky puzzled me: he had a nice lot
of things but talked down everybody & everything -
No one knew anything or had any genuine things
save Orsky - Our first acquaintance he
gave me opinions, as to what he thought of
this man & that, than I often expect to have
confided in me by personal friends - Mr.
Brown was moving & I did not see him
nor his coins - Low was out & not
trusting his assistant & person, his coins
were locked up & the key in his pocket, -
A said the very pleasant keeper -
Elder I found very bright & seriously business-
like -

The mint collection looks finer in the new cases and I think the wonder is that the V.S. has ever had a larger place before - They need a more scientific keeper and arrangement -

This is all I think I did in the missionary line & consider I succeeded quite well under the circumstances -

In the Peabody Museum collection there is no specimen of the Yap Stone money - Among some things I bought ^{some} years ago when I had charge, there is a plain pearl shell which was cut or smoothed down a little marked "Yap Money" - These things were brought directly here by a missionary - Mr. E. N. Jenkins can give you a sketch of ^{it} I suppose anytime if you write him - I don't think I will take the Mysore coin as I have my hands full just now if I get some of the things Chapman has sent and my summer bills paid -

I have held on to the two coins of which I send rubbings, to ask you about - Do you know anything about them? It strikes me

that the prices seem very high, especially the
one for \$9- What do you think? I don't
want to miss a good Chinese coin if
not outrageous—

Begging pardon for so long an epistle & hoping
to see you in course of time I am

Truly Yours

John Robinson

Wrote this in a couple
of days' time

The first volume of "The
History of the World"

Salem, Oct. 2, 1905.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am very glad that Mr. Frey and yourself enjoyed the half-day in Salem. I exceedingly regret that it was not a long whole day for I could have taken you about to some more interesting places and as Mr. Frey was decidedly interested in historical matters I should have had much pleasure in giving him the best side of Salem to remember, - Salem you know is only interesting in the past.

The paper on the gutterally-pronounced cipher on Mohamzedan coins came to hand and makes a most interesting and valuable addition to the study of these issues. I think it must have required much hard work to puzzle the inscriptions out. I thank you for the copy.

Did you get any Salem postals for Mr. Frey? I think I heard him say something about it. I should like to send him some for I could get some here of the oldest houses, etc. Kindly let me know.

The little trays have come from Dennison and are nicely made and satisfactory. In another month I shall get at the arranging of the collection. To day I received a catalog from Low in which some 2,500 Japanese cash are ^{to be} sold, but I presume that all the scarce ones have been picked out long before this time. At any rate one would hardly care to bother with such a lot. I am

Veru Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem Oct. 25, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood -

I have been thinking
over the matter of the R. N.
Soc. which you were kind
enough to suggest in your
letter and I have come to the
conclusion that, even if I am
acceptable as a candidate, I
doubt if it would be ad-
visable - My collecting is
so specialized that I fear

it would hardly pay me to
join and when my collec-
tion is a little more per-
fected it is doubtful if I
extend its scope. You
ask what my position is
here - I was treasurer of
the Trustees of The Peabody
Academy of Science up to
last March, when I
resigned after thirty years
service, and remain only
one of the life Trustees -

I hold no office at the
Gray Institute, — but am
a sort of "high private"
there, as always, and
have an interest in
both institutions.

I used to have charge
of the Peabody Museum
& especially the botanical
work — That was my special-
ty; coins being my hobby
an recreation — Now

Things all reversed —

I am busy on the arrangement of the coins just now and hope in a month or so to get them in a consultable shape so we can see what is best for the final touch.

I shall be after your advice there as you so kindly offered.

I am Very truly Yours,

John Robinson

G.L.

I am sending these coins, -
some old & rather good, - sooner
than I thought & so
send the letter with
them -

Take any you want -
The numbers on those
marked "G. 246"
are Lockhart's
Glover coll -

JA

My dear Mr. Wood

Your package is at hand. I thank you for sending the coins and will look them over at once and return. I must not be ~~tempted~~ tempted by the too attractive coins outside the farther East if I can help it. I should like to see the catalog. In great haste

I am Sincerely Yours

John Robinson

My dear Mr. Wood.

The package of books,
etc. arrived this afternoon -

I thank you for the book
catalog & think I will order
the pamphlets - The
book-money is most in-
teresting and I should like
to pick up some of the
funny kinds the one

you kindly put in my
way - I bite at such
hooks! Any time you have
things sent you and do
not care for them I
shall consider it a favor
to let me see them
when perfectly convenient -
I was very glad to get
the little gold chain
& found it very com-

Had the central portion of
a larger copper annulet
figured in Lockhart.

I shall return the book money
in the morning by reg. mail.
Many thanks for letting
me see it & best wishes
for a happy New Year

Love sincerely
John Robinson

P.S. Rec'd notice of num. in
Am. Mus. Ass. and have
paid my dues. Dr. Henth
says I can have about ten
years back minutes (perfect) of
the Numismatist. Shall I
try to get them? Is it
a valuable set to have?

Dr.

Salem Nov. 9, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood

Chapman has sent me a lot, 150 specimens, of the Chinese gambling tokens in porcelain. It seems to be a good collection and as it is just in the line of the Chinese room and a rather effective collection for the brightening up of the cabinet when exhibiting it to the lay-visitor, I am inclined to get it. He wants \$40.— They vary in form color & inscription — Do you think it very high? He also puts in ~~3~~ three old Java ~~or~~ in silver, but in the "Bergson" Sale I find the prices are about half what he asks. Is not that too much?

Yours
Samuel J. May
John Robinson

2/22/2020

Salem, November 16, 1905

My dear Mr. Wood:

I have acted on your advice and purchased the lot of Chino-Siamese porcelain tokens and am sure I shall not regret it.

I think I shall also take the Java silver pieces, they are so interesting, ~~and~~ especially as I am devoted to these issues. I have not seen the Schulmans catalog and should like to get a priced copy. Are you writing for one? If so can you order one for me also? There ~~was~~ ^{of} a sale some time ago, after the Stephanik sale, which I wanted to get a priced catalog, but the one I ordered from Nijhoff never came. I have received to day a fine book on Annamese coins, - "Annam Etudes Numis." by Albert Schroeder, 1905. Two vols., plates and text, giving all the process of casting the coins. *as well as silver & copper issues* Very interesting and beautifully gotten up. Perhaps you would like to take it a little later?

It would not surprise me if the lot you got of Morey, - if they came from Japan, as most of our Chinese coins do come, - contained many of the odd Japanese imitations of the Chinese coins, and many real Chinese, which have for centuries passed in Japan as the regular currency. I have found quite a lot among my coins. I shall have a drawer among my Japanese for the Chinese coins which circulated there, giving some twenty examples. Among a lot of "put up" coins of China and Japan I bought of Morey years ago, I found the other day a good specimen of the first Japanese "sen", quite rare. I should like to see your lot and I have an odd lot of duplicates which you are welcome to take any you want. I will send them to you in a day or two. I thank you very much for the plaster replica of the rare Chinese silver piece. I shall be very glad to get it indeed. I hope soon to have my coll. in shape to examine for I have nearly completed the first classification. I am

Sincerely Yours

Salem, Nov. 20, 1905

MY dear Mr. wood:

I am very much obliged to you for the loan of the catalogs and shall return them in a day or two. The reproduction of the Chinese silver coin is capital and is just the thing for the collection, for, really, it is to all appearances equal to the original. Of course, it is particularly desirable to have originals, but in a public institution, the representation of the specimen is often as important almost, as an original. Precisely as in the Art Museum, the casts enable the collection to have an educational value it could not otherwise possess. I shall mount it in ^{Two} ~~one~~ of the little trays at once.

D'ont worry about the price of those Chinese cash. They are all duplicates which the combining of my collection with that of the Inst. produced and I expect to get out of you, in the way of advice, far more than they can possibly be worth and the little cast is worth the whole lot to me already. If they were coins I had come by in regular exchange or purchase I should treat the matter as you would, but these are what our chemical friends call "by-products".

I shall be very glad to have you take that week off and go through the coins and books/. Let it be at your convenience.

I am

Very Truly Yours

Salmon, Nov. 22/05

My dear Mr. Wood

I sent this p.m.,
by express, the new coin book,
on American Numismatics, - and
you can keep it as long as
you may care to do so. I
shall not use it just at
present - The account of
the process of coin making
and the pictures of the

work seem quite interesting.
I also send back a number
of the catalogs but
have kept the others to
make some notes. I did
not send any views. The
suggestion you made regard-
ing writing for the cat-
alogs is good and I shall
adopt it. They are valuable
and I should like to have
them. I am working

almost every day on the
collection and begin to
see a little progress
made. The thousands of
labels required, when the
bottoms of the trays are
considered, the little
space on the face of the
tray and the class, dynas-
tic and other labels, make
a long job—

I hope to live long enough
to catalog the collection
some day-

With many thanks for the
catalogs I am

Very Truly Yours
John Robison

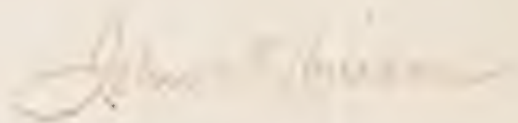
Salem, Nov. 29, 1905

My Dear Mr. Wood,

I have received from Chapman, who seems to try to tempt me with odd coins from time to time at high prices, the Chinese-Formosa coin of which I enclose a rubbing. Can you tell me anything about its rarity? I have never seen one before and do not find it in any catalog. Have you any idea of what it ought to sell for? Chapman wants somewhere about \$12. for it which is very high. Another thing, - is it possible to get any of the priced catalogs such as you have loaned me? The one by Leavitt in 1885 contains much of interest and so do the White-King catalogs. I suppose that they are occasionally in the sales.

I am plodding away on the collection almost every day and am now getting it in fairly good shape. There are a great many perplexing matters turning up as to identification and arrangement.

I am Very Truly Yours



The Company's charge is based upon the value of the property, which must be declared by the shipper.
Liability limited to \$50 unless a greater value is declared.

Form 267

UNION EXPRESS OFFICE.

(NON-NEGOTIABLE BILL OF LADING.)

93, 95 & 97 Arch St., Boston,

12/15 1905

Received from

Valued at \$

Marked

Which the Company agrees to carry upon the following terms and conditions, to which the shipper agrees, and as evidence thereof, accepts this bill of lading.

1. In consideration of the rate charged for carrying said property, which is regulated by the value thereof and is based upon a valuation of not exceeding fifty dollars unless a greater value is declared, the shipper agrees that the value of said property is not more than fifty dollars, unless a greater value is stated herein, and that the Company shall not be liable in any event for more than the value so stated, nor for more than fifty dollars if no value is stated herein.

2. If the Express Company has not an agency at the point of destination, it shall carry the property to its agency nearest or most convenient thereto, and there notify the consignee, or deliver the property to some other carrier to continue the transportation. The Express Company shall not be liable for loss or damage occurring after such delivery nor for detention after having tendered the property to a connecting carrier.

3. The Express Company shall not be required to make free delivery at points where it maintains no free delivery service, nor at any point beyond its established delivery limits.

4. The Express Company, unless negligent, shall not be liable for loss, damage or detention of said property caused by civil or military authority, piracy, insurrection, strikes or riot, or by the act of any person acting as an officer of the law, whether with or without lawful process, warrant or authority, or by the dangers of railroad transportation, the perils of navigation, changes of temperature, heat, cold, wet or decay, nor for the death, injury or escape of live freight, the Company not being a carrier thereof except at owner's risk.

5. Said property is accepted as merchandise only, and the Express Company shall not be liable in any event for the loss of money, specie, bonds, coupons, or other negotiable paper, which the Company does not receive or carry except through its money department provided for that purpose.

6. The Express Company shall not be liable for loss, damage or detention of said property unless a claim therefor shall be presented to it in writing at this office within ninety days from this date with this contract or a copy thereof annexed; nor shall the Company be liable in any suit to recover for the loss, damage or detention of said property unless the same shall be commenced within one year after such loss, damage or detention shall have occurred, and not afterwards.

7. Articles of GLASS, articles contained in glass and fragile articles are accepted at OWNER'S RISK.

8. If any C. O. D., is not paid within thirty days the shipper agrees that the Express Company may return the property, and that he will pay the charges for transportation both ways.

9. The terms and conditions of this contract shall apply to any forwarding or return of said property, and shall inure to the benefit of every carrier to whom the same may be entrusted to complete the transportation.

For

Express.

Agent.

Salem, Dec. 15, 1905

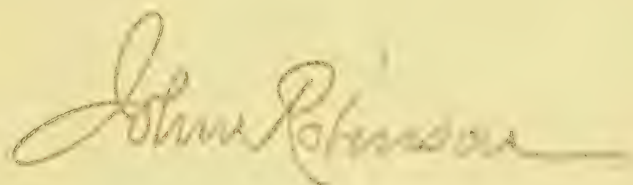
My dear Mr. Wood:

The books came all right last night and I am very glad that you found so much of interest in them. To tell the truth it would take me a year to get out of them what you seem to have got in the short time you have had them. I am glad too that you found some of the coins useful. I am hard at work on the Java, Sumatra and Netherlands India coins now, and a mixed lot they are to arrange in any satisfactory way. However, I am doing pretty well with them. I shall return your two remaining catalogs and, really, I have had them a long time. Did I understand that you had a catalog, a duplicate of one of the priced ones, which you could let me have? If so I could copy the prices into it and that would be almost as good as if I had the plates with it. Sometime we can fix it to do this.

Just now I am delayed a little about boxes for the coins, as I have used up the first lot and the new ones have not yet come along. I do not mind for at this season I am busy about Christmas and am quite willing to lay off for a time. I shall accumulate a great array of questions to propound to you when you come down to do the grand examining of the collection, and no doubt you will have numerous errors to point out.

I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Robinson".

Salem, Jan. 15. 06

My dear Mr Wood.

I have been intending
to write you for some days
to ask two questions:—

Do you want that black
walnut, 18 drawer cabinet,
lined with ^(lined) old gold colored
cotton flannel, I got at
Wright's? If you do

you can take it and we
can arrange an exchange
of coins some day on some
basis — I paid \$10 for
it & coin.

What did you & Mr. Fay tell me
about the Spink & Son cata-
logs? They are coming and
I am to pay some one —
Am I to send it to Spink or
did Mr. Fay or you want

for it?

I am still at the course &
am struggling with India -

As the deeper in I get, the
less sure I feel about it.

However, I shall make a begin-
ning and when you come
down we will discuss some
better way -

I had a catalog from Lobbs
but saw nothing in it.

unless there are treasures in
these lots of unclassified
series —

I have had other catalogs, but
only sent two bids to Low on
some uncertain things
— one 1000 vol. 1855 Chm.

My collection begins to look
quite well — I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

and

Salun, Jan 26. 06

My dear Mr. Word.

I had a letter from
Mf. Numismatic Soc. people
regarding a collection of
1400 Oriental coins which
has been given by a mem-
ber, name not stated -
They ask if I am going to
Mf. to come and see it,
I suppose with some idea

of advice relating to arrange-
ment, etc. Mr. Elder gave them
my name as an expert
on these coins - It is
said that Chinese, Japanese,
etc - coins are included.
Of course there are persons
in N.Y. who know just as
much or more about these
coins as I do, and I am
inclined to suggest some
person but, "who?"
They suggest that I may be

going to NY. I should
like to see the collection but
am not going that way
just now. I think I
shall write & express my
interest & ask what the
coll. is made up of in
the rough. Have you
any suggestions to offer or
do you know what coll.

Can you tell me what

the enclosed coin rubbing
is? I got it in a lot
of 40 worthless things in
Low's last sale - It
seems familiar but I
can not remember where
I have seen it - It
is cast in copper & too
rough to make a fair
rubbing - I enclose the
65¢ as I may find it &
with many thanks for your
trouble -
Samuel J. May
London

Salun Feb 19/06

My dear Mr Wood -

I shall be very glad
to have you come to Salun
Feb. 22 and will be
on hand at any hour
you say - We shall
have the place to ourselves.
Let me know what
train you will

come on. We can dine
here or at the Club
as circumstances suggest.

I am cataloging now,
the arrangement having
taken for shape —

I shall have a number
of puzzles to propose.

I am in haste

Very truly yours

John R. Brown

P.S.

Will meet you at the
Station or Easy House,
say which?

Salun, March 25/06

My dear Mr. Wood -

I write this to thank
you for your great help
in the matter of these
copper coins which
are entirely beyond me -

I hope you found some
to take for yourself but
I can not tell for

hasty glance. I shall
visit you again in a
few days & give you some
points on the collection
as you ask for them.

We have been in a great
rush this week about
some proposed building
plans which I hope will
be out of the way soon.
Very sincerely yours
John Brown

A.S. Thanks for the nice
letter about our common past.

Dear Mr. Wood—

This has just been
sent me— I wonder
if Mr. Fay has looked
into it— The values
quoted are absurd—
No doubt there are
some good things if
separated— In

Wash

John

Jan 1871

Don't return —

Why did you pre-pay my
pardon?

Salem, March 31, 1906.

My dear Mr. Wood,

I have at last finished the work at the Institute on the coins, at least, all that I shall do at present. Now I shall be busy over more building operations which are to take place at the Peabody Academy Museum, for which we have had a gift from Dr. Charles G. Weld partly of your town. Also we are to go back to our house on Summer St. in Salem by and by, and I shall have to make some appropriation of time and money, too, for that. I have succeeded in marking with white paint, in small figures, about all of the coins in the collection which ought to be marked, each box is marked and a catalog is completed of the whole. It seems to me that the veriest fool of a librarian's assistant ought to be able to straighten out anything upset in the future. Now that I have done the job I am very glad I did so and not trust to the work being done after I depart.

You ask about the scope of the collection. You know the character of the collection as well as I do, and while not being the greatest in any line, still it is a very good illustration of the coins of the east and far better arranged than most such collections. Of copies among the early Chinese coins you know also. There may be fifty or sixty, some old and some new. Any way, they fill gaps and if admitted as copies there is no deception in the matter. My catalog contains 2668 numbers and the few gaps left for convenience in beginning a new series at the top of a page is more than made up in places where there more than one coin against a number. It may be grouped as follows:-

China: Bridge 5, Buckle 1, Lotus heart 1, Spade 2, Weight 4, Pu 14, Knife 20, Round Tchou 27, Wang Mang Pu and knife 13, Old round 32, Round Sung to Ming 407, Ch'ing 314, Misc. 27, Hong Kong 20, Temple medals 90, in all for China 981. Annam 130, Siam 54, Siam dependencies 32, Porcelain tokens 172 (This is about the best single lot I suppose ~~as~~ for ~~as~~ completeness).

Japan 257, Korea 97, India, native and British 279, Ceylon 34, Dutch E.I. Java, etc. 258, Straits, Borneo etc. 57, Persia 31, Muhammedan 64 (the Cufic etc.), Turkey 93, Morocco 22, Africa, etc. about 40. In the coll. are some 50 coins I took from the old collection and incorporated with mine. Some were very good, but mostly they were unimportant. It also includes Mr. T.F. Hunt's series of bullet money of Siam of 15 pieces. You know the books: there were about 100 bound vols. worthy of the name and a lot of good pamphlets, say 25, and catalogs of little importance in addition. Also the collection includes some curiosities, paper money of China and Japan and one Dutch Iddia piece; co^{tin} swords, lacquered fan and bowl with coin decorations, strings of cash, mounted amulets, coins in the casting $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long, nearly, etc.

The cabinet strikes me as a particularly good one for the purpose and will eventually be in a room where it can be seen outwardly by the public and inwardly be specialists under the eye of some custodian. All drawers are interchangeable and ^{There are} six doors, 25 drawers in a column. ^{glazed} Six sections above to display as many drawers. The Institute provided the cabinet.

I do not send you all of this because I think you will use half of it, but for you to select what you want for your notice. You are very kind to bother with it. I have just got around to examine your set of "Berliner" and am making tracings of the Siamese porcelain money and shall keep it a little longer. Do not think I have forgotten that you own it.

I ~~have~~ passed a very quiet, industrious and pleasant winter with the collection and the work upon it and expect to go to far less agreeable matters from now on. I am

Sincerely Yours

John Robinson

Dear Mr. Wood

I think the notices are
right but would suggest
adding something to the
effect that, — the real value
of the collection is ⁱⁿ the arrange-
ment and extensive ~~system~~ ^{use}
of ~~labels~~ descriptive labels.

You know the late Prof.
G. B. Goode of Washington said
that a museum should

contain a large collection
of descriptive labels illus-
trated by specimens. I
think my coll. would please
you —

Yours

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salun, Apr 4 06

My dear Mr. Wood-

At last I return
the papers on the Samise tokens
and Sniggara money - I have
made tracings of all and
notes and I think they will
add considerable to the sub-
ject in the library -

I have been very busy and
expect to continue so for
the summer as we go back
to our house where we shall

have considerable to do
and at the same time
building operations are to
be in progress at the
museum -

I thank you very much for
lending me the papers and
shall hope to see you at
our house the next time
you come to Salem -

Yours Truly Yours

Salem, Apr 25/16 John Robinson

My dear Mr. wood:

I received your letter just after writing to you. You are very kind to send the coins and I shall like all but the Korean which I already have. And I enclose the amount. (\$2.25).

As to the cabinet, I think I said ten dollars in exchange, but I suppose I ought to take off a dollar or two for cash if the collector wants to pay for it. If this will be to his liking I will send it right along. I am in haste

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem, June 15, 1906.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I have not answered your letter of May 25 for I have not looked at even the back of a coin book or the outside of a coin cabinet since the first of May. The matter of house repairing and attendant evils have kept me so busy, and I have worked so steadily personally at it, that I have thought of nothing else. You are very kind to still keep ^{in mind} the matter of the Cufic coins. You were to take any duplicate you found, but I thought that you seemed to return as many as those taken. What shall I send you? You are very welcome to any. Later I shall like very much to see the Vol. III of the Fonrobert sale. I have often seen it quoted. You can imagine that with a boy just about to step into Harvard and a house in dire need of mechanical ^{repairs} and upholsterosities, that even Chinese coins go unbidden upon. However I hope to recover by and by. Can you tell me anything of the sale of 1000 Chinese coins which Adams has sent me notice of and practically demanded bids for? He speaks of coins "1200 years old" so I fear he has an imaginative catalogue. If it is really a good thing why can we not combine and perhaps get Mr. Frey to look into it? What do you think about it?

You are going into Orientals fast and are very lucky to get the B.M. Catl. series. You may find treasures in the lot you have bid upon abroad and I shall be much interested to know what you get and see any new ones. I hope to get settled in the house soon and shall then try to pick up the loose ends of my hobbies. With kind regards, I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem, July 13, 1906

My dear Mr. Wood

In my pre-occupation with other things, the sale of Chinese coins slipped my mind until just now, when, to my astonishment, I find it is to take place to day! However, the catalog is such a bombastic, ill arranged affair, with few descriptions which give any aid in determining the coins which are of any importance, that I doubt if the whole lot is anything more than what you suggested it might be, one of the put up collections to sell to globe trotters. However, if it could have been examined, perhaps something of interest might have been found. Did you do anything about it. At least I must get a priced catalog if possible and find out what the New Yorkers thought of it.

Let me know if you found out anything about it if convenient.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Have you heard from your ticks on the Oriental books? I am interested to hear what you got —



Salem July 25. /06

My dear Mr. Wood

I hoped that you
would get more of the books
at the Schuman sale,
but what are we to do
if millionaires are going
in for these things as I
see by a recent coin-
cidental & the Times-

matist, they are doing?

I return the paid list
and the newspaper cutting
about the Adams Pri-
vacy case. I expected
the paid list before this
but it has not come.

I sent my money for it
so it will be along in
time. I suppose —

I have got absolutely nothing
lately in the way of coins &
do not expect to add much
to the collection at present -
My garden & greenhouse work
have occupied most of my
time now that I am over
my work of housework -
When you get in the
spring I hope you will

run down + see no—
Law
Very Truly Yours
John P. Jones

Salem, Sept. 3, 1906

My dear Mr. Wood

Yes, I am in Salem and shall be very glad to have the coins, except that I think I do not care to add to the Cufic series unless it ^{is} ~~was~~ something of special importance. And, by the way, did you ever get the ones you wanted from my lot? If not they are just as you returned them and can select them at any time.

I have done very little in the way of coin collecting this summer, in fact, nothing. I had a lot of modern cash sent from Adams and took some to encourage him, but they were only the ordinary set one sees put up to sell. There were some mistakes, but not many. I see, also, that the Chapmans have separated and that one, S.H., has issued circulars of his opening in a new place. What is the trouble and has the other set up for himself also?

I shall be very glad to see you at any time here as I expect to be about Salem now indefinitely. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT

Form No. 1548

SEP 6 1906

Received from the Postmaster at

Salem Inn

(Delivering office)

Registered ☒ Letter ☐ Parcel

No. *47002*

From Post Office at BOSTON, MASS.,

Addressed to

John Robinson

(Name of addressee)

Date

Sept 8

(Date of delivery)

1906

When delivery is made to an agent of the addressee, both addressee's name and agent's signature must appear in this receipt.

John Robinson

(Signature or name of addressee)

(Signature of addressee's agent)

A registered article must not be delivered to anyone but the addressee, except upon addressee's written order.

When the above receipt has been properly signed, it must be postmarked with name of delivering office and actual date of delivery and mailed to its address, without envelope or postage.

This card must be neatly and correctly made up and addressed at the post office where the article is registered.

The postmaster who delivers the registered article must see that this card is properly signed, postmarked, and mailed to the sender.

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

RETURN TO:

Name of Sender

Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box. }

BOSTON,

MASSACHUSETTS.

Postmark of Delivery Office

and Date of Delivery.

Salem, Sept. 10, 1906

My dear Mr. Wood:

You are very kind to send the coins for inspection and I have taken out four which I think I ought to have in the collection. I really would like the China-Tibetan set and if you will be so good as to send for them I shall be greatly obliged. Shall I send you the money for them now?

I return the lot by registered mail and add the postage you had to put out on my account. It is a great advantage to see a coin and it is the great drawback to me in ordering by catalog or sending bids on coins that I do not exactly know what I am bidding on.

I hope that you have not perished this summer in the humid heat. We have been here all the time and are quite as comfortable as when away

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Golden hind 50

" 19

" 37

Saman's 63

Pepper 14

183

BOSTON, MASS.,

190

Received of

Munroe & Arnold-Merritt Express Co.

Marked:

Jan 15 4

BOSTON, MASS., Nov 12

1906

Received of

13 Perry St. Boston
Munroe & Arnold-Merritt Express Co.

Marked:

100
Post (15)

300
Campbell

THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

GEORGE AUGUSTUS PEABODY, PRESIDENT

S. ENDICOTT PEABODY, V. PRES.

JOHN ROBINSON

ELIHU THOMSON

FRANCIS H. APPLETON

ABNER C. GOODSELL, SECRETARY

FRANCIS H. LEE

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT

DUDLEY L. PICKMAN

TREASURER: GEORGE A. VICKERY, SALEM NATIONAL BANK, SALEM

DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM: EDWARD S. MORSE

Salem, Massachusetts, U. S. A.

Nov. 13, 1906

My dear Mr Wood

The small coins
came last evening and
I shall attach them soon,
but I fear it will take
quite a long time to
go through (or do you prefer
thru?) them as I must
do it by day—
I want to compare the

coins with the collector,
rather than trust the check
and so that I can get
the betterments as well
as new coins — The
coins have a familiar
look and I do not
expect to add a great
many —

Yes, I do want Spink, it
is a fine thing, although
mostly out of my line —
The Essex Institute people

PEABODY MUSEUM

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.

Founded, 1867 (Museum established by East
India Marine Society in 1799).

EDWARD S. MORSE, DIRECTOR

JOHN H. SEARS, CURATOR GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

W. W. ENKINS, CURATOR OF ETHNOLOGY

JOHN ROBINSON, KEEPER OF EAST INDIA MARINE SOCIETY RELICS

East India Marine Hall,

Salem, Mass.

quite admire it, for
the classical appearance
of its illustrations.

I have heard nothing from
Chapman as yet. Possibly
he has not succeeded in
getting the collection.

I am making up a
little sketch of the arrange-
ments of the coins in

the cabinet at the C.I.
for the Pollen of the
N.Y. Soc. He wrote me
a second letter about
this coll. The other day —
They are evidently looking up
members, but it is too far
for the annual dues —

Love

Very truly yours

John Johnson

I will put in the box in
stamps — Thanks for your

John

PEABODY MUSEUM

SALEM, MASS., U. S. A.

Salem, Nov. 22, 1916

Dear Mr. Wood

I have just finished looking through the second lot of coins and to cover everything, - new, better and odd pieces, I have taken 141 coins, amounting to \$15.80 I also send the rough memo. so that you can see about what it covers. I do not want it back again - I shall

not attempt to add the coins to the
collection just now there is some con-
fusion at the E.S., but wait until
all is settled again in their new
quarters which may be six months
hence - I hear nothing from Chapman
If there is anything more for me to do
about this coll. we have just examined
let me know.

Truly
Yours
Robinson

PEABODY MUSEUM

SALEM, MASS., U. S. A.

Dec. 3. 1906

Dear Mr. Wood

I return the Quailitch letter
it is evident that the book is
practically unobtainable
I will have the Pretty notes
copied & send you some

The weather nearly used me
up. I feel quite played out.
I hate the cold —

Sincerely yours

Sam Houston

Friday Dec. 7, 1906
Dear Mr. Wood

You will see by the
enclosed what is up in
the Chinese coin coll. of
Chapman —

As soon as they come I
~~will~~ ^{will} let you know ~~and~~
~~after.~~

I wish you would come
down Monday to
tea ~~at~~ at some hour
by which you can get here
about 6 o'clock — I think
by then the coins must
be here — If not I will
let you know at your
Brother's office that day.

Our house is 18 Summer St.



Love
Very Truly Yours
John Robinson

Trans from
N. Sta: Tracks 3, 4 or 2
 4.45
 5.00
 5.13
 5.30
 all express —

IMPORTER OF
AND
DEALER IN
ANCIENT
GREEK AND ROMAN
COINS,
ENGLISH,
CONTINENTAL AND
ORIENTAL
COINS AND MEDALS.
MEMBER OF AMERI-
CAN NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION.

HENRY CHAPMAN, JR.

Numismatist

NO. 1348 PINE STREET
PHILADELPHIA

REGISTERED CABLE ADDRESS: "CHAPMAN, PHILADELPHIA."

DEALER IN
AMERICAN
COINS AND MEDALS,
ESPECIALLY
IN FINE AND RARE
SPECIMENS,
PAPER MONEY,
NUMISMATIC BOOKS,
COLLECTIONS
CATALOGUED FOR
SALE BY AUCTION.
APPRAISEMENTS
MADE FOR EXECUTORS
AND COLLECTORS.

18th month 5th, 1906.

Mr. John Robinson,

Dear Sir:

I am working getting the coins packed up for you. It has been a very tedious job as I have to pack it carefully that they may not get mixed. I hope to get it off to you this week. *Will send off Essex Inst*

Yours very truly,

Henry Chapman Jr.


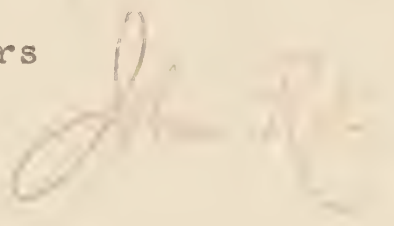
*The are about 150 lots of Chinese
" " " 280 " " Early Spain. Turkey & other Oriental
and, I believe the note I've enclosed your valuation
to the wonderful tape accompanying & send your highest offer
- he may not accept it as another part, has turned up but
I argued you would be fair & I want your best offer
I will deal in my own & close it for you. The
other party is a H. H. H. - a person in a C. H. H.
I think he has not seen it - forget first chance
H. H. H.*

Salem, Dec. 13, 1906

My dear Mr. Wood

Last evening a box of Muhammedan coins came from Chapman and this morning a large, frail box, filled with other boxes, and odd stuffing arrived with the Chinese and other coins. I should judge that the collection was pretty good and that the Muhammedan coins are the strongest. I have only glanced at them, but it is evident that whoever wrote the labels must have spent years at it. They are the most elaborate I ever saw and beautifully written. But they are to a great extent wasted. I have acknowledged the receipt of the lots and when can you come down to examine them? It will take quite a time as all are in separate envelopes. Can you come Friday or will Saturday be better? Let me know in some way. It would be nice if you can come down as early as convenient and then we can have a fairly long time to look over the collection. We have tea at 6.30 and the trains you have in my note. Of course there are earlier ones. I am

Very Truly Yours



BOSTON, MASS., 12-10-190

Received of

Munroe & Arnold-Merritt Express Co.
Munroe & Arnold-Merritt Express Co.

Marked:

Bag arrived all
right. Letter
also - Many
thanks for your
trouble in
list - Will
write you
later
Sincerely J. M.
Dec. 22, 06



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.

POSTAL CARD.

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mrs. Howland Worth
93 Perry St
Brookline Mass

Sub vsa

Miss Steadmy called on
me ^{Saturday} to say that she & her
sister have concluded to sell
their father's entire col-
lection & wish to do so in the
lump - They do not want it
mentioned in Salem or to
be bothered personally - They
will have the matter atten-
ded to by Mr. Roland W.
Boydson of State, a

lawyer & friend - He lives
in Boston - They wanted me
to notify Low & send a Mr.
Chapman word already, - or
later, - had written them
offering to make a case

offer—
To I note Low & Chapman
(Henry J). —!!!
In haste J. R.

MEMBER OF THE LATE FIRM OF S. H. & H. CHAPMAN 1878-1906.

IMPORTER OF
AND
DEALER IN
ANCIENT
GREEK AND ROMAN
COINS,
ENGLISH,
CONTINENTAL AND
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COLLECTIONS
CATALOGUED FOR
SALE BY AUCTION.
APPRAISEMENTS
MADE FOR EXECUTORS
AND COLLECTORS.

1. 5. 1907

Mr. Robinson Esq.

Dear Sir

Replying to your letter

Dec 26 06 & Jan 15 07 by which that I have just

returned from a 10 days trip away, and will submit

your letter Monday & report result. The offer

seems low to me - There are about 1500 coins in

the whole lot. I think

Yours truly

Henry Chapman

After 2 weeks or more, this is all I

have so far

Don't return

R

Salun, Jan 9. 07

My dear Mr. Wood

I wrote so hastily that
I did not tell you much
and will try to answer
the questions I ought ^{to have answered} in
the last letter —

First I want to thank
you very much for that
fine new flower, We are de-
lighted to get it and
shall have a case right

away - I anticipate much
joy at breakfast. —

Also, the little charms are,
all, I think, Korean and, I
also think new ones to
the collection. Many thanks
for sending them and
I enclose the dollar —

I offered Chapman \$350.,
calling your offer 200 —

I made the Chinese coins
come to 160. figuring
those I really wanted.

at a pretty good price -
We both hit on 50¢ for
the old fakes and I
was a little high by
your estimate on the
old small case - I
think your estimate the
nearest -

Chapman said that the
cerus belonged to one of
the most distinguished or
first, or something of the
sort, families in Phila.

Some trustee or executor
holds them & did not
care to have the name
given - I did not
write Rev. I notified
Low & Chapman about the
Sturkey coll. & got a very
grateful acknowledgement
for so doing from Low -
I hear nothing more from
Chapman and wish that
he would hurry up - I
will let you know as soon as
I get a word - You must come
down again -
Yours Robinson

11.30 p.m.

Salem Jan 10 1907

My dear Mr Wood

I have had a most strenuous day with Mr. Chapman and he amazes me! He appeared about 2 p.m. and left at 8 p.m. I was with him the whole time and am positive that he had not taken anything exhilarating, either before or after we met - And yet with a good bottle of champagne on board his tongue could not have moved more constantly, nor told more of his own personal affairs more abundantly - Mrs. Robinson asked me after he left if I did not think that there was a "screw loose" somewhere -

He was under a great excitement for the Messrs Pickney had closed a bargain with him, entirely at their own instance, the evening before and when at their lawyer's office the bargain was flatly repudiated by the lawyer -

He accuses me that the collection proves
far less perfect than is generally supposed
and that his offer he is positive is far
above any they are likely to get elsewhere -
He has another collection to put with it
which will make a great sale and the
reputation of the Pickney coll. is what he
wants to give "eclat" to his sale -
He was utterly upset by the change of
face and said that the ladies were
surprised at their advisors decision -
Of course I do not know anything about
it, but I imagine he (Byrden) wants
bids for the coll. It is a rough thing
to get a figure in this way and then
use it as a lever against Chapman -
C. after he thought the matter settled had
even given the ladies individual figures on
the coins they asked about - Moral:
don't deal with women -

He is down on his luck, and was
as much disgusted about the Oriental
collection as with the S. lot. - The
suspicious, wealthy owner, after ~~placing~~ ^{placing} the
matter entirely in his hands, when he

heard the price seemed about satisfied
and then through the telephone, told him
to have the coll. sent back at once and
that the price would not pay for the
time to write the labels. He would give
it to some institution before he would sell
at the fixed. Chapman now thinks
the owner has an idea that it is worth
about \$1000 — So I have done it all
up this evening & it will depart tomorrow —
What a lot of trouble we have all
had for nothing — My final offer
was $350 + 5\%$ commission = \$367.50
That I am sure is as much if not
more than it would bring cataloged &
Chapman says so — We kept the poor
fellow to tea & sent him off quite
chipped up — Such a talker I
never struck before —

Yours truly

John Johnson

My dear Mr Wood

I had a telephonic message from Mr. Bryden yesterday asking me about the Hickney coins and if I would make a comparison of prices on Chapman's list - I was going up to Boston later so I told him I would see him - When there I explained to him the utter impossibility of such a thing without seeing the coins; and that I was not sufficiently posted to give a proper value to my estimate and suggested you - It seems (by Chapman I suppose) you had been mentioned to him and his young man associate in the office had seen you. Mr. Bryden seems quite surprised with the fact that amateur collectors were so fair as to discredit their own ability to make estimates of species of coins which they did not specially collect and study - I told him any one you would name would

be O.K. and that your figures would
be absolutely fair & just —
He is right in his desire to get personal
information about the collection for the
ladies but it in his hands & then, apparently,
made an out & out bargain with Chapman.
So Boyden told them he must be satisfied
that the offer was fair — He told me
that he did not want to talk with dealers
but get the opinion of a collector & student
of coins — He inclines to sell to
Chapman outright as do the ladies —
I hope he ^(Chapman) will get it and think he will
for I imagine his offer is as high as
any outright offer is likely to be —
I want you to see the coll. very much and
hope you will decide to make the estimate
for Mr. Boyden — If you do you must
bring your friend to see me or we will
talk at the Club if you like —
Let me know what is to be done

when it is settled -

I have a suspicion that the ladies, like the sex dear creatures, have very little business notions & would not think it bad form to go back on a bargain on second thoughts -

They are nice, old fashioned, and all right, but there is plenty of Yankee shrewdness in their make-ups or they would not be the daughters of old Matthew A. Sticksney

I am yr. honest
serving friend

John Robinson
Sat Jan 12. 07

Salem, Jan 19, 1907

My dear Mr. Wood

When you returned the bag with the Muhammadan coins, I put it on one side and did not open it until Mr. Chapman came this week. In it I found the "Numismatik" book catalog of Birseman which I ought, of course, to have acknowledged and returned long ago, and for which neglect I beg your pardon.

I do not exactly understand the marks against the books, whether they are ones you have selected or suggest to me? 247 and 271 are now interesting, but it is quite a price for me just now. 248 ~~the~~ 272 I have & 276.

Chapman has closed with the Hickups at last and has packed up his treasures & departed. He is a funny fellow and I was much amused at some accounts

of his visit, so corroboratory of our
experiences— He was calmer this
last time— I don't know his
price but imagine it was pretty
well up to the full value— He
told me he allowed \$1.000— for
the 1804 dollar—

I imagine that Mr. Boyden found that
the ladies had practically closed up
with Chapman on their own account
& that he could not honorably keep
him out of it ^{longer}— He wrote me
that they ^{to be sure} did not feel able to endorse
over again the ordeal of having the
coins examined and prized—
No doubt, in my mind, that they have
done well to sell as they have—
Chapman had a lot of coins I looked
over and from which I selected some
Chinese & India coins— He intended
taking it to you— There were a large
number of Portuguese India coins, I
noticed, of late dates, but I did not
take any or ask the price— 2

thought very likely that you would find some you wanted — I should like sometime to get a series or set of the various denominations but I do not intend to collect many —

Chapman also said something about the possibility of the coll. we had, again coming into our hands or his, but I have cooled off on the Chinese part of it and would far rather pay in proportion for what I want than buy the whole —

Yours
Very Truly Yours
John H. Johnson

Say that you will not have the fun of looking over the Pickering collection —

Saline, Jan. 20/04

My dear Mr. Wood

I want to thank
you for the Journal with
the admirable account
of the Tibeto-Chinese or
Chino-Tibetan sever crisis.
I wish the numismatic
publications would have

more of such instructive
articles in place of the
trivial ~~matters~~ they do
mostly contain—

The Hickney sale was
announced in the Salem
News last evening in
glowing newspaperial terms.
I can not imagine
what the reporter got

the material for the
paragraphs he evolved -

Yours
Very truly yours
John Robinson

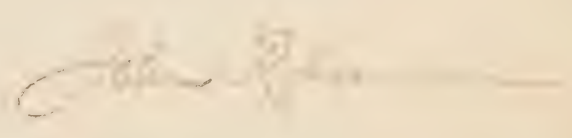
Salem, Feb. 5, 1907

My dear Mr. Wood

I am ashamed to say that , owing to the sudden removal of my effects at the museum before I had arrived the other day, your letter and card was lost until, fortunately, found yesterday. I did not answer your letter because I thought it would surely turn up. Only week before last one of the bank officers here who is interested in postals, etc. got me a set of the foreign coin postals. He had them some time ago and through him I got the set. Otherwise I should want you to get me one. But, of course I am supplied now. Many thanks for calling my attention to them.

I have thought of you several times lately at breakfast time when thin corn cakes appear. The flour has been nursed along and proved very delectable. I have heard nothing more from Chapman, and it is a little odd, for he left a box of books in our basement to await more books from the Stickneys which have not turned up and I thought that he would write to have the box forwarded. We shall send it along soon if we hear nothing more. Mr. Chase was here the other day and explained the difference between the two Chapmans and that accounts materially for the anxiety of Henry to get the Stickney collection at all hazards. I shall await the catalog with much interest. I suppose that the oriental collection we had to look over has been taken back by the owner and that is the last we shall hear of it. I should like about 25 of the pieces, the rest I do not want and should have to get rid of if I bought them. Asking pardon for the delay in returning the card , I am

Very Truly Yours



My Dear Mr. Wood

Mr. Chapman has sent me the coins which I now forward to you as he requests. There was but one I wanted and as the prices seemed quite high individually I only have taken that one.

His letter explains the matter and prices.

I suppose that the Stickney collection will soon be on the tapis and I shall be interested to see the catalog.

I have had one of the nasty spring colds, not sick enough to be in the house and not well enough to feel like working. I hope that you will escape the prevailing grippe which attacks people in Salem very suddenly. I dread it for I have experienced it before. There seems to be nothing new in the coin line here. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem April 2/97

BOSTON, MASS.,

4/5/07 190

Received of

Howland Wood

Munroe & Arnold-Merritt Express Co.

DNF JH

Marked:

Mr. John Robinson

John

4/15/07

Robinson

My dear Mr. Wood

The Stickney sale was certainly a wonder. I think that the ladies must be kicking themselves for not trusting to some human man and having the collection sold on commission. They certainly would have got nearly twice as much out of it. The catalog came before the sale, but it was imperfect and I returned it and Chapman said he would send the perfect one with the price list later, which is just as well for me. I am really glad that Chapman made a good pile out of it and, here, those who know the girls are inclined to think that they were too close for their own interests. I am much obliged to you for writing me and have read Mr. Zerbe's letter with much interest and will keep it for the present as you say not to return it. Hoping that you are summering comfortably I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Saline July 8. 07

Salem, Aug. 12, 1907

My dear Mr. Wood,

I have had a number of communications regarding the vote for President of the Numismatic Soc. and as I don't know anything about it, will you kindly tell me what I ought to do? Generally I pay little attention to votes on societies' tickets, but there seems to be so much talk about this one that it seemed well to inquire into it.

By some error I do not yet get my Stickney sale catalog, Mr. Chapman wrote me last week that it would be along soon, however. I hope that you are comfortable this hot spell, we have P.M. south east winds to mitigate the heat. I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Robinson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

My dear Mr. Wood:

not filled out

I enclose the proxy[^] in order that you may use^b it at your discretion. I fear I shall not be in the neighborhood of Columbus when the convention is called to order. I felt that Mr. Zerbe^e was not exactly the person for the head of the institution, not that I imagine him otherwise than earnest and willing, but I judged from the circular he sent me ^{by} his diction, his style and his inclination to push himself were against him on the face of it. It certainly would seem that Mr. Prey was in every way the best one for the office. I have the Stickney catalog at last and it looks finely. I find a few errors in numbering but anyone surely can see them. Those who know the general character of the Stickney ladies rather laugh at their unwillingness to trust any dealer and thus get caught on the sale. However, everything went Chapman's way, for had he been selling the collection this week, what a difference there would have been in the prices!

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salmon Aug 15/67

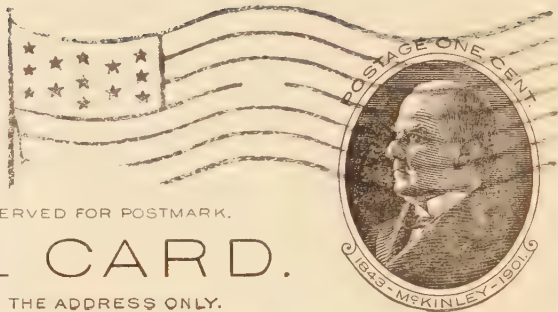
Dear Mr. Wood

I am very sorry but
I have been ill and
housed and will
now at once go
through the coins
you kindly sent &
pick out those
needed — I am

Very truly
Yours

John Robinson

Jan. 4. 1907



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.

POSTAL CARD.

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mr Howland Wood
92 Perry St
Brookline
Mass.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I was down town yesterday afternoon and went through the lot of coins and selected to add to the collection such as I did not have already. I found that there were quite a number of the festival tokens and "E" sen among the coins we had a year ago, and the collection ~~did~~ have more ~~in it~~ from a lot I got of Yamanaka before that. I am very glad to get some of this lot also for it included several forms I had not seen, notably the one with a number of little gods on it.

I am very sorry to have kept the lot so long, and if I had thought that I should not have been out before I should have written you. However, I trust it has not interfered with any return of the coins you had planned.

I am very much obliged for sending them. I see that the Stickney books are to be sold by Libbie this season and think from the notice I saw that there must have been a great addition to the collection from other sources to make up such a library. I hope that you are well.

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salun Oct 5. 1907

P.S. The coins have been moved to the new "Ward" room in the other building just remodelled and connected to the former Simpson Institute building by a fine hall & stairway - I think that your mother would enjoy an hour in the historical room just as much -

Salem, Nov. 13/07

My dear Mr. Wood

I think that the
Eaton letters are a valu-
able contribution to our
knowledge of the Chinese
coins and have had
copies made of them, so
return the originals —
I am very much obliged

to you for sending them -
Since the meeting I have
been harassed with a
naughty cold - What a
dim and atmosphere
we endured there!

Do you suppose Mr.
Eaton has any duplicate
"Spade", China, that he
would sell at a
fair price? I have

two only, one of about
the oldest form the
other later, I am quite
sure both are all right.

I am much stronger in
knives and "Pu" coins.
In fact of the latter
forms, enough —

Just now I am studying
whales & whaling!

We have had a fine coll. of
whaling implements, etc, given
us by the Field Museum of Chi-
cago, — a World's Fair left-over.
I have arranged the coll.
and am working up explan-
atory labels — A very interes-
ting subject — Later we shall
fill up gaps in N. Bedford &
perhaps exchange some du-
plicates — The N. B. coll.
is finally started they say &
ought to be the coll. of
that character in America.
J. J. Johnson

Salmon, Nov. 29/07

My dear Mr. Wood

I certainly want
the Spink catalog again
for it is interesting and
beautifully made up
& printed - I thank
you for getting it
for me - Love -

close \$1—— which
will cover the charge
I think and the
Ecc. postage, ^{of the order} etc. when
it is my turn to
pay by this time

I am Very truly Yours
John Robinson

PEABODY MUSEUM,
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.
Founded, 1867 (Museum established by East India
Marine Society in 1799).

JOHN ROBINSON, KEEPER OF EAST INDIA MARINE SOCIETY RELICS

*East India Marine Hall,
Salem, Mass., Dec. 5, 1907*

My dear Mr. Wood

If you are enclosing receipts of similar character to that you so generously sent me, I should like to over pay you once a week. I think the token must be one of those Japanest fancy sen shown in the latter part of the vol. on Jap. coins. It appears like one of the regular local issues with the addition of the mouse going in on one side and coming out on the other. I thank you very much for it. I have read the interesting letter you enclose and return it. I guess we can tell quite accurately about copies and genuine Chinese coins and I should think that our ideas correspond very well with those of Comm. Faten, excepting that he must know a hundred times as much. I am obliged to you for sending the letter down. What a talker he must be! I have had several colds this fall and hate the prospect of enforced imprisonment for some months to come. If I go about much I am sure to take cold but if I keep close here I seem to worry through. Oh! for summer again. However, I am very busy but I don't like to see so little of the world. Later on I hope you will come to Salem and bring your mother with you. We can show her some interesting things at the Institute as well as here.

I am

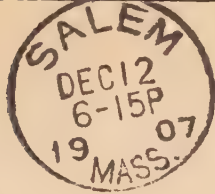
Very Truly Yours

*and Mrs. Robinson will show Mr. Wood our China closet —

I am sorry not
to be at the
numus. Soc. meeting
this p.m. but a
funeral of a con-
nection of the family
keeps me in Salem

JR,

Dec 12:



POSTAL CARD

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mr. Bowland Wood

93 Perry St.
Brookline

Mass.

Howland Wood - Personal

Robinson, John
[Peabody Museum
Salem, MA]

1908-1912

(2 of 3)

Salem, Sept. 21, 1908

My dear Mr. Wood:

I was thinking the other day that it is a long time since I have heard from you. I enclose the proxy for the meeting of the Numismatic Soc. as I see no prospect of being present although the program is a very enticing one and the social events appear to be quite swell. I also received the appeal to buy back numbers of the magazine to assist in squaring up the accounts which I infer were quite mixed up in the estate of the late treasurer. I have all the set as far back as they can be furnished and do not care for any later ones as duplicates, but I will very gladly duplicate my two dollar annual subscription if that will be any benefit. What ought I to do? This is not a new feature of numismatic societies with me for I had to help out to a much higher figure on the old N.E. N. & A. Soc. years ago. How much ought I to send?

Chapman's catalog of his sale for Sept. 30 is also at hand and I see he has a page of orientals. 709 appears to be a German medal, what is it? And what are the 728 "Turkoman copper coins"? If anything different from what we have I should not object to have some. The other things appear to be already in my collection. If you have time drop me a line with the leaf enclosed and give me your opinion and whether or not you want any of the lots so I shall not bid against you. I have not added anything to the collection this year but I suppose that you are picking things up all the time. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem, Sept. 23, 1908

Dear Mr. Wood:

I thank you for the trouble you have taken regarding the coin sale and think that, so far as I can judge, the only things I am interested in are the German medal you send the rubbing of and the so called Turkoman coins. Quite likely the last are not Turkoman at all but something else, perhaps those unknown odds and ends they often have, ~~of~~ Moorishⁿ etc. If you can get the medal for me I will be very much obliged and as to the price I leave it to you. If you get the others very likely there will be duplicates so that I can have a representation of the lot if they prove to be of interest. I hope that the convention will be a success which I have no doubt it will.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem, Oct. 17, 1908

My dear Mr. Wood

I have quite a lot of the Annam pieces but I would like to see the lot you have from Chapman very much, even if I do not take any, and if convenient kindly send them to me by express at my charge when you are through with them. I am very glad that the convention was such a success and the program certainly looked attractive. You did wisely regarding the pieces at the sale. I shall hope to be at the next meeting of the club. I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Rimmer", written in dark ink.

Salun, Oct. 21, 1908

My dear Mr. Wood -

I returned the coins
by express yesterday pre-
paid and trust that they
have arrived safely -

I took

34	Cambodia	1.50
41	Ceylon anaps	1.05
37	Burmah	1.00
8	Amman	3.00
18	"	1.50

7.05

aut. up 7.05

6 Annam 1.50

14 " 1.50

Tebuzma? 1.00

\$ 11.05

and enclose ct. for the
same with many
thanks for your trouble -

Love in haste

Very truly yours

John R. Brown

Salun, Nov. 17. 18

My dear Mr. Wood

You are very kind
to ask me to dinner
and make it so at-
tractive for me to attend
the Anniversary Soc.
meeting Friday, but
unfortunately, I can not
be in Boston that day
as I have a meeting
here where I must

be present at and
so I must decline
your kind invitation.
Have you seen the Chinese
mirror collection at
the Art Museum? One
is a copy of a coin
of the T'ang Dy. and
another of an old
temple medal - I
should think that the
age of some of them,
like some Chinese coins,

must depend upon
where they were made,
if you can understand
my meaning—

With regrets for not being
with you on Friday, I am
Very Truly Yours

Samuel Johnson

Salem, Dec.3, 1908

My dear Mr. Wood:

I received the catalog and thank you very much for calling my attention to it. The ~~Essex~~ Institute had one, but had not seen the numismatic lots as the officer in charge had not gone through it carefully. I will return it as soon as I can get it back, in a day or two. I ordered through the Institute several books and pamphlets and noticed your marks and avoided them. As to the other coins, at your convenience send them, for I should like one of the bean-like Japanese coins you speak of and anything you choose to send. You are very good to keep the matter of the cabinet in mind and I doubt if I should have thought of it again myself. I am freezing to day and yesterday after the splendid let up we had last month and the first day of December. I expect not to have a perfectly comfortable twenty-four hours until next spring. I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Quinn", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

PEABODY MUSEUM,
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.
Founded, 1867 (Museum established by East India
Marine Society in 1799).

EDWARD S. MORSE, DIRECTOR.
JOHN H. SEARS, CURATOR GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY
L. W. JENKINS, CURATOR OF ETHNOLOGY
JOHN ROBINSON, KEEPER OF EAST INDIA MARINE SOCIETY RELICS

East India Marine Hall,
Salem, Mass., Dec. 9, 1908

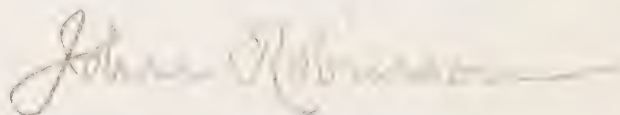
My dear Mr. Wood:

The coins and book came along all right and I am glad to have them. Only it is \$3.80 instead of \$2.80 as you have it added up. That Japanese tical-like coin I have never seen before.

The order slip I enclose is the old one as the later one could not be found. How much shall I send you for the order and postage. You are very kind to attend to it for me and I think the publication an exceedingly interesting and finely executed one. Also I send you the catalog from which the coin books were ordered. Unfortunately I marked it up and if I can find a clean one I shall be glad to send it in the place, but I hope that my scrawls will not hurt its value for reference.

I am

Very Truly Yours



Salun. Jan 6. 09

My dear Mr. Wood.

May I trouble you
with a question?

What is the book marked
on this enclosed list?

I have Marsden: "Kunus.
Orient. Illustrata", 1823
2 vols. 4^{to} —

Also the international
"Kunus. Orientalia", vols. I
and III — Both enclosed
a misprint 8 instead
of 2 ~~and~~ Marsden

also a mistake or
what is it — I did
not know that the
Inter. Munis. Cent. ex-
tended to 1903 —
if there are 8 vols. 4^{to}
of good matter \$1750
is a low price — Can
you enlighten me?

Sincerely
Laura R. Brown

My dear Mr. Wood —

I think I will take the
two series you sent for I
have none of the class —
Also I have separated the
vettings of those I should
cite —

I am very glad you find
the ones I sent from
the collection interesting —

Yours with thanks
in haste
John R. Brown

Apr. 26/89

Salem

Salem, July 8 '97

My dear Mr Word

I thank you for the
note ~~being~~ ^{now} received
and the trouble taken
about the oral token -
It clears up all our
odd piece -

I have received cards, etc.
about the election
& of course, no nothing
about it - Can I
give you a proxy?

Love very truly
John Robinson

My Dear Mr. Wood:

I am sending you all of the Kwan ei tsu-ho coins in the collection for study and a very few duplicates, so marked, with them. It will be a benefit to us to have you look the coins over at your leisure and so I send all. You will see that each one is marked with a number and so I can put them back perfectly well no matter how much you may mix them. There are a few more that are merely the ordinary coin copied into those Wistaria wreaths, etc. About four in all I think. But I did not think that you would care for them.

Keep the coins as long as you need to examine them all you wish to do. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

*Mr. Wood
with
mine
Gauts*

John Robinson

John Robinson

No. **26377**

Form 1549 A.

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED MAIL.

This receipt represents a letter or parcel registered at the post office indicated by postmark. Inquiries concerning registered mail should state the number of the article, date of its registration, and the names and addresses of the sender and addressee. The sender of the article represented by this receipt should write the name and address of the addressee on the reverse side.



class postage prepaid. Postmaster, per -----

55317

John Robinson

Post Office Department **OCT 11 1909**
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

Original Reg. No. **OCT 12**
11-30A
19 09
MASS



Postmark of Delivering Office

26377

RETURN TO:

Howland Wood
(Name of sender.)

Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box, }

93 Perry St.

BOSTON,

Brookline

MASSACHUSETTS.

and Date of Delivery.

This card must be neatly and correctly made up and addressed at the post office where the article is registered.
The postmaster who delivers the registered article must see that this card is properly signed, legibly postmarked, and mailed to the sender, without envelope or postage.

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT.

Form 1548.

Received from the postmaster registered article, the original number of which appears on the reverse side of this card.

Date of delivery

Oct 2, 19____
(To be filled in by person signing receipt.)

When delivery is made to an agent of the addressee, both addressee's name and agent's signature must appear in this receipt.

(Signature or name of addressee.)

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

A registered article must not be delivered to anyone but the addressee or the person in whose care it is addressed, except upon addressee's written order or a written order from the sender transmitted by the mailing postmaster and duly verified.

When the above receipt has been properly signed, it must be postmarked with the name of delivering office and actual date of delivery and mailed to its address, without envelope or postage.

THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

GEORGE AUGUSTUS PEABODY, PRESIDENT

S. ENDICOTT PEABODY, V. PRES.

JOHN ROBINSON

ELIHU THOMSON

FRANCIS M. APPLETON

ABNER C. GOODSELL, SECRETARY

FRANCIS H. LEE

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT

DUDLEY L. PICKMAN

TREASURER: GEORGE A. VICKERY, SALEM NATIONAL BANK, SALEM

DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM: EDWARD S. MORSE

Salem, Massachusetts, U. S. A.

October, 14, 1909

My dear Mr. Wood:

I probably shall be detained in Salem all day tomorrow and not see you, so send a check for the coins all of which I think I had better take, for four of the dollars are new and one a better specimen and the Japanese new and the Korean a very good lot. I am very much obliged to you for sending them along. ^{Seven} ~~Six~~ dollars seems to be the total.

I should much like to see Mr. Reilly and show him our oriental coins and am very sorry he will make so hurried a visit. Perhaps he may be here again.

I am in haste

Sincerely Yours

John Robinson

Salmon, Nov. 4/09

My dear Mr. Wood

I received your letter
and package last evening
and want to thank you
very much for your most
kind and generous gift
to the Quince Orchard Cabinet—
I am not in a way to
get things ready now
as I, of course, have
still business with the

active market being
restricted to such a
limited field —

It is a most interesting
lot, too, and I shall at
once transfer the coins
to the cabinet which
you have awaits the
addition of the last few
things collected during
the year —

When the Salem, N.J.
can meet again, I shall

you must make a day
of it here and we
will show him the
"witch pins" and where
they never burnt witches
but hanged them
in the most approved
fashion — Love

Very truly Yours

John Robinson

Thursday, Nov. 19/09

My dear Mr. Wood -

I thought until this morning I should be at the meeting to day, but now find I shall not be able to go to Boston - I am very glad to get the half crow & have never seen one before - The rubbing at first seemed familiar but found the thing I had in mind was

one of Bushell's odd Fooki-
Chinese cash and not
like yours — It is a
very curious coin —

Enclose a dollar and
wish you would kindly
send my subscription to
Spunk for me — I think
his catalog about the best
published

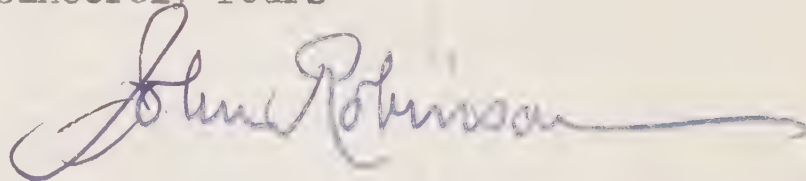
Very truly yours
John W. Brown

Salem, Nov. 22, 1909

My dear Mr. Wood:

When we had the U.S.S. "Salem" in our harbor this summer and a general celebration of the event, a man was located in the center of the town with a machine looking like a clothes wringer of heavy make from which he turned our "Salem" cents by running bright 1908 cents through his machine. I forgot I had several to distribute until I came across them this morning. I send two, keep one and if you can conveniently do so, hand the other to Mr. Chase, whose address I do not have, as I think he still is interested in ship coins. It looks like winter this morning although not cold. I am

Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boston, Mass. Thurs Oct 19 1919

Received in good order of Robertson

— VIA —

Munroe & Arnold-Merritt Express Co.

 Cases Boxes One Bbls. Bbls. Bags Cans

Marked: See Invoice

See Invoice
And @ Wm. A. Merritt Oct 19

Boston,

JAN 15 1910

19

Received

of the Wood

by Munroe & Arnold-Merrill's Peabody Express.

Marked

John Robinson

Salem

10-15

My dear Mr. Ford -

The set of Lyman's
money is a very fine
one and I enclose my
check for \$13. to pay
for it and wish to
thank you very much
for getting it for me -

I am

Very truly Yours

John Robinson

Salmon, June 15, 1900

Salem, April 8. 1910

My dear Mr. Wood -

I have been out of town
for a week and hence the delay in
answering your letter -

I thank you very much for sending
the Amman coin and enclose the
dollar -

You must be picking up a large
collection and a very desirable one
of Orientals. I get but few -

In haste

Very Truly

John Robinson

My dear Mr. Wood:

It will give me great pleasure to meet Mr. Reilly and show him the coins and have you both at lunch either at the house or the club. Let me know what train to meet you.

I have received a package of coins from the Jun Kob. which include some very nice ones and desirable and he says remit to you, so I shall look over the lot as soon as I can and report. Hoping for a pleasant day Thursday the 26th. I am in haste

Very Truly yours

John Reilly

May 23/11

My dear Mr. Wood:

I have gone through the lot sent by Mr. Ramsden of the Jun Koh. and find several coins which I am very glad to get. He asks me to say what sort of coins I desire to have on approval and I think I will write later and send him a rough outline of the collection and its intended scope. Of course many of those available now must be copies, but I take good copies and recent medals, etc., reproducing old types, as the only means of representing them in the collection. One of those I took was the Manchu large piece of 1620 with the curious characters. It must be a copy, but a very beautiful piece. You know that the Manchu written language or characters did not appear until, about 1500, - some time. I did not know that fact until the other day. I am enclosing you my check for \$11.80 which covers the prices of the coins taken. This is a very nice way for me to do and I shall be glad to have another lot after I give them the scope of the coll. that they may send with more knowledge of what may be wanted. I am much obliged for your interest in the matter.

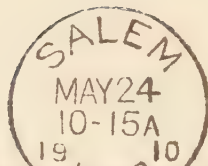
Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Ramsden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Salem, May 24, 1910

Salem 5-24-10

We will hope to have Mr Kelly
down later - I shall look
over the Japanese coins
finally to day if possible -
Some nice ones but I guess
many must be copies and that
is about all we can get of them. J. Q.



POSTAL CARD

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mr. Howland Wood
93 Perry St
Brookline
Mass.

Salem, June 24, 1910

My dear Mr. Wood

I have received another package from Ramsden, Jun Koh, Co., this time Korean coins of fine character and they seemed so reasonable that I have taken rather more of them than I should ~~do~~ under other circumstances. I have about all the Korean coins I want for they are so uninteresting and innumerable in variety. Mr. Ramsden says to send the remainder of the coins to you with check which I am now doing. It makes it so much easier to get them this way that I am tempted to have more sent than I should if I had to bother to send to him each time and I hope that it does not give you too much trouble. I enjoyed the day you and Mr. Reilly were here very much. I have sent him the book-plates he wanted but have not heard from as yet. I am

Very Truly Yours



Salem, Aug. 13/10

My dear Mr. Wood

I want to thank
you for the separate from
the Humanist of the inter-
esting and instructive article
on the Blacksmith copiers.
In my dense ignorance of
the subject I had always
supposed that curious series
of copiers emanated from
H. or Coon. at the head
of the Blacksmiths of 185-8

Such studies, it seems to
me, make the publication
of the Manus. worth while.

I am in receipt also of the
official ballot of the Soc. and
as I do not know anything
about it I think I best
send it to you signed in
blank to fill out at
your discretion. I find
that I have not received
the Manuscript since
Dec. 1909, which looks as if

my name had got left
off the list - I paid up
an notice and find I
have my membership ticket
for 1918 at hand -

Who is the one to write
about it? As I turn
over the numbers to the
Exec Institute as the case
of sometimes do not reach
them for a few weeks
it has been along with it.

noticing the ship —
I hope you are well
Sincerely
John Brown

Talun, Sept. 3/10

Dear Mr. Wood

I do not think I
have thanked you for
having the magazine
sent me. I got a
note from Mr. Zerbe
explaining the omission
and saying that my
addressment was duly en-
tered but my name
slipped out transferring

names to the mailing list.
I also got Oliver's "plate"
catalogue & wrote him what
I thought of its matched
appearance. He admits
most of my strictures but
claims that it shows
the excellencies & defects
of the coins better than
finer reproductions, — or
rather those which make
a finer appearance. He
also claims superiority of

time as an excuse for
delinquencies— Elder seems
to be a man who has
got behind time in the
past & never able to
quite catch up—

I enclose a copy of I
came across yesterday
which I suppose is one
of your "Blacksmith" copies.
I have not the article by
me as I write as soon
as I can— Do

not return it. - as
it has "I O", or something
like it under the seal.
The weather is cold, & I
have a cold and feel
mean -

Sincerely
John Brown

Salem, Oct. 6, 1910

My dear Mr. Wood

I have the coins and your letter and Ramsden's. I have been out of business, so to speak, all summer in order to get a sort of vacation and run about the country instead of going off to one place for the season. Thus I have neglected everything that I could. Among other things I have left the letter to Ramsden for the future as many other things. I intend to write now and I am so mixed that I am uncertain whether or not I have ordered his book on Korean coins and must ask you if I have done so and whether or not I have ever had a copy? I ought to see a copy to know about the amulets which are in the lot you sent. My impression is that I do not want them for I already have quite a number and I suppose that there is no end of them. As to the medals and badges, it seems to me that I better stop at coins and medals and not attempt to collect all things which are round. I think I will keep the cards for the museum. Can I hold the lot a few days until I see Ramsdens book? If I find I can not get a copy for myself at once I must ask the favor of the loan of yours for a short time.

The objects of which you made the rubbings turn out to be about what I expected, - tags of some sort. There wooden ones in our museum collection for lost children, etc. I have not looked through the lot of coins, badges, etc. in the little box very carefully, ~~and are the~~ (find them O.K.) ~~"Ho-yei cho gin" among them?~~ I do not find a separate package. I shall go through the collection carefully tomorrow. It came yesterday and I was away and did not return until late in the evening. I think that Mr. Reilly will have the banner collection if he keeps on. I am

Very truly Yours

John Reilly

I find I do not have Mr. Ramsdens book
but will go

P.S. I have devoted the day to
the coins & have finished a
copy and I enclose from
my recent letter to
Mr. Roussier with a
rough list of the coins
in the collection —

H.R.

Dear Mr. Wood

The museum will take the lot of Korean charm coins any way and so I am sending you a check for forty dollars to pay for them; and for the things I have taken there will be five dollars on account, which, when I get the other bridge money can be balanced whatever the sum may be. I send this, for the bill will not go in on the museum account 'till next month and that will make it a long time to wait for Mr. Ramsden. I trust this will not inconvenience you, or rather has not done so. It takes large bodies a longer time to move than small ones and Prof. Morse had to show the things to Dr. Weld and then the bill has to go to the committee, etc., etc., etc.

I enclose a photograph of our Korean money plates for Mr. Ramsden as you requested. It was taken the ^{only} other day hence not sent before.

I think I told you I wrote Ramsden about the coll. here and my views regarding its increase and I suppose I shall hear from him in due course. I think also I enclosed the rubbing of the bridge money piece I concluded I better take. I hope you are well and adding to your coll.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

James M. Wood

Salem, June 5, 1911

My dear Mr. Wood

I should like to see the coins from Mr. Ramsden very much and shall be here indefinitely, even if I should be out of town by day at a time or for nights. The office address will always reach me. It would be well to send the package to 18 Summer St.

I had another long letter from Ramsden and a little box containing the rubbing materials and a weight like object for approval. We have similar ones, but smaller, in the museum. He spoke of the fine collection he was to send you to be sold in a lump and of the turtlebacks also. I ought to have one for my collection. I will send Ramsden's letter to you as soon as I have digested it. I have met a man, librarian of the Am. Nimis. Soc. N.Y., who is quite a dude. Mr. A.H.Cooper-Prichard, his card says. He came here with the Asso. of Am. Museums when they had the Salem day. He was especially interested in orientals and boasted of the fullness of the N. Y. library on that dept. I showed him our books and he at once found three he had never got hold of in N.Y. I was rather amused.

I have just read the last number of the Journal. It looks nicely and more business-like since you and the easterners have got hold of the publication. I am

Very Truly Yours

John R. Wood

Dear Mr. Wood

I thank you for attending to the matter of the vote as I can not possibly keep the run of the affairs of the organization.

I received the enclosed bill from the Jun K. and send you a check for the amount as requested. I have had a letter from Mr. Ramsden and the firm regarding a package of two rare coins which are on the way and ought to have been received before this. The letter came last week and the coins have not appeared and I am a little anxious about them. What had I better do about it? They were old weight money pieces and valuable and Mr. Ramsden advises me strongly to take them, in fact he takes it for granted that I shall do so and that is my intention. I hope that they have not gone astray. If they do not appear in a few days they ought to be reported I think.

I do not just know what Mr. Ramsden does not understand by my letters unless it is regarding the "cast" which was reported last spring and which I thought I told them ^{at the time} I decided not to take and which apparently was kept for me for some time and was the cause of another letter which I answered last month apologizing for neglecting ^{the matter}. Now the firm writes that they do not understand what I do mean by any more recent casting. I think that they are confounding some of my probably ignorant references to such things and are mixed in the matter. What I tried to explain as wanted was a mould in which the coins are cast, supposing the thing was attainable, which it may not be.

However, when I hear from you what the difficulty is I can fix it all right. The last letter contained a very neat sketch of what they suppose my pu coins are ~~and~~ ^{my} ask me to verify the list which I shall do. I hope I am not making you a lot of trouble in the matter. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robison

Salem 10.5.11

Salem, October 16, 1911

My dear Mr. Wood

I am enclosing a check for the last lot of old Chinese coins sent from the J.K., a bill of which will explain the matter. They are beauties and I really must take both as they are of the greatest rarity, and not found every day by any means, and are of a species which I have always fancied. I recently bought of a man who brought some things from China for museum purposes, an old piece which I think is genuine and as it was cheap, took it. It is precisely like one Mr. Ramsden sent, but a variant.

I got your letter enclosing Mr. Ramsdens. I hope that you will come to Salem and next Saturday will be first rate. Come down to the museum and we will go to lunch and then to the Institute where the coins are kept.

I guess I have neglected Mr. Ramsden and am very sorry to think he seems to feel badly about it. I really can not do but one thing at a time and I have been doing more than one all the time this year and was expecting to take up the coin matters seriously as soon as the summer merged into winter and I was shut up and could go at it day after day at the Institute. I can not carry in my head things left months behind when doing other things. The bother of it all is that most of ~~the~~ ^{most I have to do} it is matter I would rather not do at all.

What I thought to do was to go over all Mr. Ramsden's letters and make type copies, I had got about a third done so far, and then they would be fresh in mind. In going through them I found there were many questions included which I had not answered carefully, although I thought I had done so in the very lengthy notes and drawings I sent him last winter. I shall go through the whole and answer page by page.

Hoping to see you Saturday, I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

P.S. Let me know about what time you will be down.

DR

10/11

Salem, Nov. 15, 1911

My Dear Mr. Wood:

I sorted out the Japanese Numismatic Magazine to day and find I have a complete set so far as I can make out by the numbering which I could pretty well adjust. I find I have a duplicate ^{and of that only} of the number with the photographic plate of Wang Mang Pu coins and which I call No. 9. Do you want that one? I do not know how I came by it. My first lot was sent by the society and the parts to complete the set came from Mr. Ramsden's firm. I have subscribed to the soc. and paid the firm for the missing parts. I believe I am paid up to the next year's opening. I enclose my check for the \$1.50 for the pamphlets. Many thanks for your trouble. I shall await the answer to my long letter and ^wenclosures to Mr. Ramsden with interest. I now intend this winter to make up a list of the books on oriental coins in the Institute library and all of the articles in books and publications of Oriental Societies owned by the Inst. It will make quite a little paper and be a good thing for the Inst. to send out. I have taken Mr. Ramsden's notes and Dr. Culin's contribution on bibliography he sent me and try for the few books and papers mentioned in each. There are not many. I already have a long list of references to coins in works on China, Japan, etc., in the library. Some are hardly worth using, but some are good. I find that the last weight coins sent by Mr. Ramsden complete a set and are fine, shall send you a check later.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John P. Reiman

Salem, Dec. 16, 1911

My dear Mr. Wood,

I enclose my check for the bill of the last coins sent by Mr. Ramsden. They are fine ones and it seems to me very desirable. I have added one dollar hoping I may trouble you to renew my subscription to the Spink circular which I see needs renewing by the blank enclosed in my last number.

I am at work on the bibliography of the oriental coins, or rather the catalog of the books, pamphlets and magazine articles available at the Institute library. It has already become formidable and will make quite a pamphlet in itself. I want, when in shape to send it to you for suggestions and corrections. Mr. Dow of the Institute has kindly offered to put it in the formal shape used in library cataloging and I think it will be well to add notes here and there to give the scope of some of the books, very briefly. I am also wondering if in a preface it would not be well to make a short note on the coin collection which is the foundation of the whole.

What is the matter with poor Mr. Frey? He seems quite upset in the last Numis. and vents his feelings in grief, indignation and despair. It seems to me that the Numis. this year has been excellent and readable, and I don't see why anyone should complain about anything in it. Perhaps you may know what it is all about but I can not see anything.

Hoping that you are well I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Salem, December 21, 1911

Dear Mr. Wood:

I thank you for sending for the Spink and sometimes wish I had the whole set, it is so finely got up and has so much of interest in it, but I suppose it would cost a lot and also be difficult to get the back numbers without duplicating my own.


I fully intend to have the catalog of books and articles on eastern coins printed in pamphlet form, as a sort of boom for the Institute, and I think it will make a very respectable showing, especially since what Mr. Ramsden wrote about the far east lot, of which I sent him the list in the rough, and to which I have added a considerable number of titles since. It will be a nice little thing to send to other collectors and institutions. It will be very strong in far east and fairly good in middle eastern. I shall put in nothing wholly European, but shall enter all those works which deal with the colonial series of European States. For instance, Atkins, Ruding and a few others, referring to the portion of the work which relates to the special coins for which the book is cataloged.

I am glad to know about the Frey matter and suppose Mr. Frey is a little stiff in his methods. Of course I should not appreciate the conditions unless told about it.

I am glad to hear of the publication of the Siamese token article and should like a copy and, if it seems desirable for our museum, will have a second one. Mr. Ramsden has sent a most interesting knife to me for five dollars and I send you a check for it and add the price of the Siamese token book. The knife is a real knife and is supposed to be the prototype of the knife coins and has the "beautiful patina" which Mr. Ramsden and, I think yourself, admire so much. Patina or none, I admire the knife and am mighty glad to

have it. He also acknowledges the receipt of my long letter and has it under consideration,- and I don't wonder it needs consideration for it was about a dozen pages of t.w. in all. I suppose he will receive the Pu and knife coins shortly also. My collection looks much finer now I have the additions which he has made to the ancient series. I will send the Wang Mang right away as we can't afford it for the museum and I don't think I will take it myself, although if I ~~were~~ a millionaire I would do so. I think I better devote my cash to the regular series at present. I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Salem, Jan. 5, 1912

My Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose a check for the little bill of Mr. Ramsden's covering the seals and a small duty on the coins I sent to him for determination. The seals are very attractive and I can use them nicely, I find, so I am quite delighted with them. Mr Ramsden writes at length and promises more. As you may like to see his letter I will send it and the return will be ample time for me to answer it. I sent him a page out of a coin sale catalog some time since which seemed to amuse him immensely and I got a quite funny response. The items in the catalog were entered in a most extraordinary manner as to dates and descriptions.

It seems to me that it will be well to let Mr. Ramsden send me some of the modern, - I mean within the past 400 years, - Chinese coins, if there is to be a stoppage of intercourse and scarcity in the future, and it would be well to pick up some to fill gaps I ought to fill. His stock must now be pretty full.

I am at work on my catalog and have come to the most difficult part, that of classifying the books and papers and grouping them. There will be about 300 entries in all and China and India and the Muhammedan series will be the large ones. Mr. Dow of the Institute has the librarian's notions that all must be very modern and geographically correct and then alphabetically arranged. I differ and think that the groups should be natural ones and have about convinced him that the Muhammedan books and papers must go together as they can not be separated by countries excepting in rare instances. So far I have decided on, - China, Japan, Korea, Annam, Siam, Malay Archipelago (including about everything arounds there), Burmah, Ceylon, India (subdivisions in doubt), Afghanistan, Central Asia (the ancient series mostly), Persia, Muhammedan (divisions undecided),

and Miscellaneous. Books, papers, and magazine articles, there will be some 80 of China alone, I should think. I have found many titles in going through the Institute library on China and the east, especially in the Royal Soc. and China branches and the Asiatic Socs. of other countries. My intention now is to make a little more of it than I first intended and to make some very short description of the works of importance and a line for lesser works and papers. It will be a nice little thing to send about to coin collectors and others. Mr. Ramsden's complimentary words about the very rough and incomplete list I sent him have given me much encouragement and zest for getting up a better paper. When it gets in shape I shall want you to take a hand in it and suggest improvements. I think I shall get it in form, roughly, and after due criticism and alteration, make up a printer's copy. All this can serve me as a winter's work to take up along with other matters. I am, in the evenings, going through my mother's old manuscript journals, 1839-1893, and type-writing out the interesting parts referring to local characters and family matters of especial interest and all of the vital statistics, for the latter are a little weak in the Salem records at the earlier date. Some of the old Salem society gossip is funny enough and the accounts of the tremendous dinners they served in those days are a surprise. Now we seem only to peck at our entertaining compared with the old ones. Wishing you a Happy New Year,

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

*I have your new Ramsden paper on
"The ^{with} Amulet Crisis" ? An adv. came -*

*I am trying to make rubbings but have
not been able to get just the right paper at
Yam's or Matt's. It is too glazed & hard -*

John R. Wood 20/10/19

Dear Mr. Wood

I had a most profitable and pleasant time the other day at your home and have made up the list I took down in fair shape for ordering to be sent out by the Institute and shall hope to pick up a good many of the books before I print the list. I have also sent out another list from what I got in a published bibliography on China, etc. Not many, but some which may be of interest if I can get them. Mr. Dow has ordered quite a number of Mohammedan books, or papers rather, from a catalog he had here which I have gone through pretty carefully. I do not suppose I shall get one quarter part of all these things so shall manage not to become broken by the amount to put out. Mr. Ramsden, on a card received to day, says he can send the Chinese books wanted right away, so I shall be whole footed there. I noticed that he wrote in haste to catch a mail in answer to a letter of the 28 Jan. I wrote, so that is 52 days for completing the circuit. Pretty well I think. You will, I suppose, get the answer to your letter you spoke about the day I was out at Brookline. The thing I forgot, and could not remember that day, was how to pick up the numbers of the Am. Jour. Numis.

I have looked over the ten cash coins and find eight I want. I was surprised to find how many I had and how good they were. I got a lot of bright ones some years ago, I think from the St. Louis concern. One of the little books you so kindly gave me I find I have bound in with another paper and so return it with the coins. You will receive the official acknowledgement for the others in due course.

Give my kind regards to your mother and tell her that I shall try to get some Utricularia winter buds if I can find any this spring to develop. They are very pretty to watch coming out. Can you give me the title of the little book you showed me about the pond plants. I am

Very Truly Yours

John R. Wood

Salem, April 17, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am sending you ~~the~~ check for the books I received from Mr. Ramsden and one which I did not receive. Ramsdens letter distinctly says he sent the smaller Japanese work and the bill calls for five packages. Four arrived at Salem and that covered three portfolios in which the 32 vols. of the first mentioned work came and the other work which was sent in two packages, not, however, separating it into large and small packages as the work is divided, but into two about equal lots. I had the P.M. trace as well as he could the lost one back to Chicago where the Customs people examined the lot, but nothing can be found of the third book. I am extremely lucky I think not to have lost a part of one of the others which came complete. I thought at first perhaps it had got left and would come in the later mails, but it has not I am sure for I got to day a package from Mr. Ramsden containing a lot of advertising illustrated sheets which I asked him to send me to complete my set of his leaflets and, I rejoyce to say? a copy of the Kwan Ei Thu Ho paper printed at Barcelona! It is No. 13 of the 25 issued and he says he found it recently as I understand it. It evidently waited for me in some corner. He sends it as a complimentary gift. It is very kind of him and I shall express to him my great appreciation ~~of the gift.~~ I shall also write him about the lost package and get him to try and trace it and send me another if it can not be found. What is the good of registration? It was a registered package. Another rare Pu is invoiced and the P.O. are holding it up to be passed by the C.H. agent. I do hope they will not shash it. I do not trust them with such things. I wonder if I shall have a personal reminder of the terrible "Titanic" disaster in the loss of some coin books ordered and expected at this time? They ought to be on the way. That is too dreadful a tragedy to dwell on and I have stopped reading about it. Sincersely Yours

John Wood

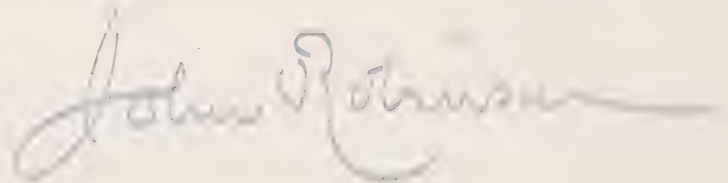
Salem, May 6, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose my check for twenty three dollars for a coin as indicated in the receipt which I have ~~made~~^{made} out to replace the bill which I can not find at the office and must have left at home. I have also notice of a lot of Pu coins coming. This piece is a beauty and although it is quite a price I must have it I think as it is entirely in a class by itself.

Several books ordered have come from Europe and among them a very fine Canrobert with the Oriental portion of the catalog priced very neatly in manuscript. If you do not have this in your collection which I believe you don not have, perhaps when it is possible soon after the Institute annual meeting to night, you may like to have me send you a copy which I shall be very glad to do. I shall write again with lists of books. In

haste, Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the letter, below the typed name "John Robinson".

Salun, May 10, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood

Last evening I found the misplaced bill — We had some company here, my room was cleaned up, the papers shifted up and hence the delay — So I send it and the memo which you can now destroy & I shall have the right one to fill — Meantime the Pn coins have come and I shall unpack them and look them over —

Prof. Moore says that there is, on deposit for a trail, a collection of Chinese coins at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, put up, as he describes them, as Ramsden's one and I wondered what it could be — He wants me to see the coll. I'm down — Perhaps you know about it — Sorry to bother you over this bill — Very glad to send the framed list of interest — In haste

Sincerely,
J. H. Mearns

Salem, May 27, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood

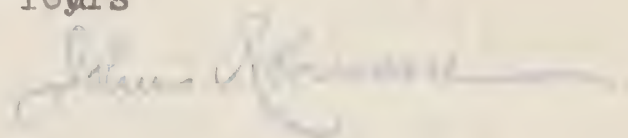
I am returning the books you so kindly sent for my inspection and hope that they will arrive safely. The express is pre-paid. I have ordered both as they seem quite as important as many more directly concerned in orientals. They are excellent works for any library outside that. Zay is a very interesting copy and I always like to get hold of such when I can, they have a personal interest in them far beyond the ordinary book-store purchases.

I shall be "dead broke" before "Fourth-of July", I feel quite sure, at the terrific rate I am going on this year, and Ramsden pushing out all the year's coins ahead of his trip in August. Books coming in at a fearful pace, etc. Household necessities going up by leaps as well. But I can not say I will go without food sooner than get all I want in the way of coins and books as Ramsden does, - Madame would object to that and I should be sent to a sanitarium to recover.

I enclose the check for Ramsden's last and send also send the rubbings which came along with it for you to see what I got. It is a fine lot I think and adds much to the collection, which now begins to make quite a show in the ancient line. There is 30 cents added to the ^{check} bill for the ~~to~~ paper sent and I have notice of a lot of paper money coming.

I am

Sincerely Yours



Salem, June 18, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood:

After many hunts and much trouble, the "Meiji Shin Sempu", misdirected to Boston instead of Salem, and voyaging over the Pacific and across the continent three times and in all 30,000 miles, has got here safe and sound and as fresh as if nothing had happened.

I am quite mistaken in my ideas of ~~what~~ the work, supposing it a book on Japanese coins. It is in three vols. of the usual form and has a few pages of Japanese coins and the rest, nearly all of the work, is given to Chinese coins ancient and modern. I suppose it deals with the coins which are circulating in Japan, or were so, before the Meiji period. It is only three books. With it came a most interesting work for which I enclose the check and bill, very reasonable indeed and I doubt not a scarce one. It is in seven vols. and seems to have no native title given by Mr. Ramsden. The Gold and silver coins of Japan and without doubt the foundation of Bramsen and some other works. ~~*~~ I send the letter which Ramsden wrote with it so you can judge for yourself the nature of the book. Ramsden seems to feel quite silly to think he addressed the lost package to Boston! I have had two notes from him about it.

What do you make out of the India pamphlets? Do you suppose we can get all the previous articles? I am getting several books and papers from Europe and have ordered those fine large Muhammedan coin books I saw in your library of the collections at Constantinople, Paris and Berlin. I certainly shall bust up this summer, but shall not have to put out anything more for a long time and little in comparison than.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

* I find that 2 vols are alike except one has 6 new plates than the other and looks with a different set.

My dear Mr. Wood

Enclose ch. for another
books bill, the 3 vols being
quite officially European
in appearance, one illus.
with paper money - I will
value Rs better which
will explain it better
than I can - I have
expected some knife
money but it has not
come & just as well
for my bank account -

I have ordered out for most
of the books I took the notes
of at your house & shall
get most of them at
Davis & Germany, some of
Harvard — Kindly return
Hansdees letter —

Do I owe you anything
more postage etc.?

Yours

John Rousseau
Jan 11. 1872

Salem, September 17, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letters of July 30 and Sept. 13, the last regarding the enclosures. The first says "you owe me nothing", always a pleasing notification. It also asks where Ramsden is and when he was to start for Europe. That I did not know. I will enclose a dollar bill to cover the "Early Barter" paper and the two coins which I am exceedingly glad to get. The balance can go towards postage at any time.

May 25 Ramsden wrote and sent a copy of the "Kin Gin Zu Roku", - Gold and Silver money of Japan. He was also much distressed that he should not have addressed my 3 vol. Japanese work correctly. He mailed it to Boston instead of Salem and it recrossed the ocean and he then remailed to me at Salem., a journey of about 30,000 miles! At this date he wrote that in case I did not want the work (of course I did want it) to send it to Ramsden & Co., 85 Grace Church St. London, E.C. June 15 he writes to say he has sent three vols. of the 22 vol. work of the Japanese govt. on various subjects,- like our own govt. pub. I suppose,- containing the coin and paper money sections. Little known he says and Munro overlooked it although a comparatively recent publication.

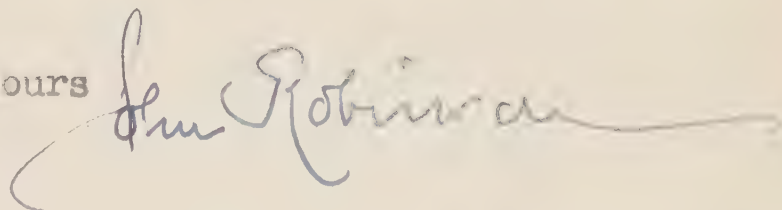
August 11 he writes that he is cleaning up things ready for his trip. He has engagements at 8 different museums all over Europe, etc. Aug. 15 again a firm letter, signed by his initials, comes with at the same time a package of the most delightful bamboo money, a representative coll. he calls it. I am greatly pleased to get it. But no invoice as to prices. It was insured for \$10. but I suppose that was below cost. At the same time he announces sending a mass of knife money with rubbings. It is the threatened lot to cover the time he is away when nothing is to come and the bill will be quite staggering. It is a splendid lot and will add immensely to the collection. So he had not gone Aug. 15. He was to

hold the coins for ten days or so to make rubbings for the coin monthly. I suppose by that he was to start soon after.

So it would appear that Mr. Ramsden did not leave Japan until about the last of August. I am getting the recently arrived coin books in shape and there are several more coming and it will be a month or so before they are in good order for inspection as the mills grind slowly in the cataloging and assorting department of the Institute. I will then let you know when they can be conveniently inspected so you need not waste your time. I think most of them are perfectly familiar to you and it will be a favor to me to have you look them over and see if I have them entered correctly in my proposed bibliography which has rested all summer awaiting accessions to be added before going to press. It will be considerably enlarged and greatly improved by the additions.

The Numismatist has just come with the cuts and descriptions of the new Chinese coins. As soon as I get the invoice of the bamboo money and the coll. of knife money I will send the recent letters from Ramsden for you to read. I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sam Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Very Truly Yours".

Salem, October 21, 1912

My Dear Mr. Wood:

As much as a month ago I had a bundle of bamboo money come from Ramsden without an invoice and about the same time there came an invoice of a large lot of knife money without the package of the coins themselves. At that time he wrote that the coins were to be kept a few days, twelve I think, to make rubbings for the magazine. What do you think about it? Should you wait till the invoice of the one and the package of the other come, or write? I can't think they have gone astray and yet it seems queer that they have not turned up. I thought, possibly, you may have heard something from him or the firm about sending me the lots and would know something about it.

I enclose an odd piece, not of a very cheerful nature, which I found among some worthless things in a lot of coins the other day. Do you know anything about it? I don't want it.

Did I write you that in the Ropes house here in Salem is a fine lot of old India china and a large number of wine, jelly and other glasses etc. imported ^{from Russia it is said (but I doubt it),} in 1818 and not used all these years. They are in a specially built closet or small room and are the gem of the collection of things exhibited to the public in that curious memorial established by the wills of the two Misses Ropes. The house is open Tuesdays and Fridays and from 2 to 5 o'clock. I am on the committee on the house and grounds and can let visitors have a card and go in other days. Perhaps your mother would be interested if she is inclined to run down this way.

I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

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TREASURER: GEORGE A. VICKERY, SALEM NATIONAL BANK, SALEM

DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM: EDWARD S. MORSE

Salem, Massachusetts, U. S. A.

Nov. 14. 1912

Dear Mr Wood

I certainly want to
keep on with Spink - And
about the Japanese magazine
I am mixed - I have
sent ^{The Japanese} for one which I suppose
is a new one - am I right?

If so, can I pay you for
the old one? Kindly let me
know how much in all &
I will send out once -
I shall send a check

also for the knife money,
which is a nice lot, just
as soon as I can have
a chance to go through
it at the Inst. I have
been very busy this fall
at the Museum, Peppis Mem-
and at home -

Very Truly Yours
John Robinson

Salem, Dec. 5, 1912

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am at last sending you a check for all the bills due Mr. Ramsden. The one for the bamboo money came too. I have taken the knife coins to the Institute and find them according to the invoice and the bamboos are all there. A card from Mr. Ramsden and a short letter were received last month and I suppose by this time he must be back in Japan. He seemed in his note to be much enthused over the wonderful prowess of the Bulgarians and I wish they could have the just fruits of their victories, but, of course, the jealous European States will rob them as usual.

I fear that Mr. Ramsden may think I do not fully appreciate the coins I have received as I do not write very much about coins to him. But it is far from that and I shall hope to be at them again this winter. There are many to permanently add to the collection and the book catalog to finish. I have so many other irons in the local fire that I do not get the time I really would like to devote to my own personal interests. Especially this autumn I have been very busy over the Ropes mansion and garden and am chairman of the house and garden ^{and botanical} committee which takes far more time than I wish. Freezing weather will end that in a few weeks and then the botanical lectures will be all that there is to wind ^{it} up ~~that~~ for the winter. We are also getting up a special exhibit of Xmas greens and their ^{botanical and historical} significance at the museum for the holidays which takes much time looking up material for the labels. All together I am pretty busy. I send all the letters ^{and rubbings} to you thinking you will like to see what I have received. Kindly return at your convenience. I am

Very Truly Yours

John Robinson

Howland Wood - Personal

Robinson, John
[Peabody Museum
Salem, MA]

1913
+ undated
(3 of 3)

Salem, Feb. 10, 1913

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am at once delighted and grieved at the contents of your letter just received. I am delighted that you should have the honorable and pleasant appointment ~~and~~ grieved that you are to go away from here. By mail you are to be no farther off and yet, - even if I don't see you but once in three months, - still I know you are within call and we do meet occasionally. I think, too, that the Am. Numis. is lucky to have your services and I congratulate the institution and its members. I think you will be able to tell them something. But where is and what was Mr. Cooper-Prichard, - I believe that was his formula, - I thought he was or is a curator. He had some funny notions about cataloging he tried to get off on the museums association last year, but which no one could understand or thought was of any value if they could understand it.

I have had a grippe attack, or had it, last Christmas and thought I was over the effects of it but was not. It comes up unpleasantly every now and then and I am only worth half a day for work. I feel the cold like fury and have been at the museum but little. However, I am clear in the head and have worked on my catalog^{on} which I do not I think I should have done half as much. I have got up my annual report, etc. The catalog is about ready for the printer and Mr. Dow is to go through it for arrangement of the forms of type and I had hoped you would see it again as I want to have you see the additions and give me a few points as to descriptions of some of the books. I have got almost all those I made a memorandum of in Brookline last year and some others which have turned up. I think that there is nothing more that should be waited for before printing. ~~If possible~~ I should be exceedingly glad if you can come down as you propose and will make any day that suits you conform to my plans if possible. I do hope you can come. I am

Sincerely Yours

John Robinson

Salem, March 11, 1913

My dear Mr. Wood

I was on the point of writing you when your letter of yesterday came this morning. I was very sorry you could not get down before leaving but shall hope to see you when on again this way. I have just read your nice pre-obituary in the Numismatist which by the initials I suppose is from Mr. Frey. I am sending you with this the only things I have in ivory, two little Japanese charms, made in imitation of coins, and very likely you know them already. I got them at the same time with some Japanese coins with rings in them for charms for the watch chain, I suppose. Also I send Culin's paper in the Smithsonian publication about games and if you do not have it you will find it quite interesting. I can not find any other reference to the subjects in the books at the E.I. library.

I also enclose some rubbings of a coin which has been handed me to identify and which of course I can not. I guess it to be a medieval European coin of some sort, possibly from Sicily. Can you tell without trouble about what it is and about the period?

If I ever do get to N.Y. you may be sure I shall hunt you up. I hope you are enjoying the new duties, ^{but} and at first I should think you would very much miss your pleasant Brookline home and the easy and restful surroundings.

With best wishes for success I am

Sincerely Yours

John Robinson

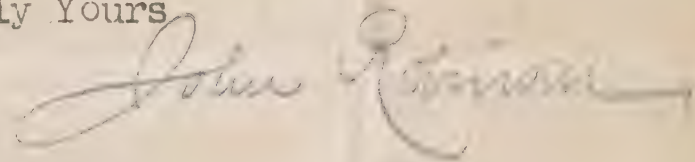
Salem, March 12, 1913

Dear Mr. Wood

After writing you yesterday I find I omitted a most important question. How shall I pay the assessment to the India Numismatic Soc.? I received a bill signed "H. Nelson Wright, Act. Sec'y and Treas." and in looking up the place which on the bill was only marked by a printers adv. "Dalhousie" which I can not find in the gazetteer, my old bill gives Campbell, who is to be away, at Lucknow, and also Whitehead at Lahore. Like good Englishmen they all take it for granted you must know all about them and where they are from day to day. I tried also to send "Rupees" at the Salem P.O. but it stuck them. Here we only have pounds and pence. Can you tell me what to do?

I am

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Robinson", written in dark ink.

Salem, October, 15, 1913

My dear Mr. Wood:

It is a long time since we have heard from each other. I was sorry you did not find a chance to run down to Salem with Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Robinson joins in the regret, but really, I thought that, coming on as you did to attend to business and household matters, it would be doubtful if you found time or were even inclined to attend to any social matters, for one gets pretty tired with household affairs and moving arrangements. However, you will be here again some day and we shall expect you then.

I am sending a check and account of Ramsden's, and his letters which were very voluminous. I cut out all unimportant parts ^{of his personal letters} and numbered the rest ^{of the parts sent} which may interest you and send them also. You can return them at your convenience with the bills. ^{no hurry.} The books he sent were exceedingly interesting and I added them to the catalog which was in the binder's hands by putting in an extra sheet. They admirably show the extensive numismatic interest in Japan and many of the special memorial numbers of society publications are quite new to me and suggest a good idea for us to copy. Why not dedicate a number of a publication here to some recently deceased member of note? I am about through with the bibliography and expect the book any time. It is in Boston being bound up. I shall send you a ^{small} copy just as soon as it is out. I want to ask you also if you will kindly suggest to me a list of important foreign and American societies or authors or sympathetic collectors to whom I ought to send copies. It can not be a very extensive list I suppose and there may be a number I should not know about or think of myself. I shall send Mr. Reilly of Salem, N.J. a copy and Spink and the men who have written important books on the subjects included in the catalog. And I don't know if some are living or not. Such as S. Lane-Poole, Lockhart, etc. I shall send to personal friends and others here quite a number of copies and I thought that 100 to distribute would cover all here and elsewhere. So you see there can be quite a foreign and American free list. The catalog will be held by the Institute on nominal sale at a price which will make it practically a gift book as I don't care to have it sold much and so the price will be high. I publish it myself and issue it in the Insti-

tute's name. It makes 100 pages, two plates and includes 504 titles! The index is tremendous as I wanted to have it of use to refer to subjects, authors, and individual coins in many cases. I think it must be of value for this reason. But you can better judge of its value when you see it. I have just got a Mehl coin sale catalog which includes some fine oriental coin books chiefly East Indian. I wonder who collected them. I have them all, however.

I had a rather disturbing talk about Ramsden with your neighbor Dr. Culin, who has been in Japan and is going again or may already be on his way there. He was at the museum in Salem this late summer with one of the patrons of the Brooklyn or N.Y. museums or something, I forget exactly what. If I did not know Culin pretty well and was not well aware of his tendency to berate everybody and use language about them which I should think would bring him into court for libel some day, I should have been much worried. He called Ramsden a swindler, a cheat, a bum practically. Of course he referred to his being out of the social pale, Europeanally speaking, on account of the Japanese wife, etc. He gave several personal instances of his cheating and told others which came by general reputation. I questioned Culin closely and found that he was forced to admit that Ramsden knew his subject, that he would not probably swindle collectors who knew much about the coins, etc., that he (Culin) had bought many things of him, at fair prices and other things which mitigated his charges very much. Now I have always thought that Ramsden was like many other dealers in the business to make money, - who is not? And perhaps would put on a pretty steep price if he thought it would go, but I have never thought of him as a swindler, putting off frauds for instance for genuine coins or cheating in his dealings. Until I have direct evidence of his doing so I shall trust him. Do you know anything which throws light on the matter? Another thing Culin said was that Ramsden kept sending things to persons who he once dealt with until some he knew (Culin did) had to stop him. I have always found that Ramsden only has sent me things in the direct line I have an understanding with him that he should send and in lines ^{in which} ~~which~~ he knew I was anxious to obtain things. Such is life and I hope Culin is what I have always thought him, a scandalmonger and character breaker. I am giving you a long tale and close. Sincerely Yours

Also Rowden has sent me coins and books several times
at a much lower figure than that which he
has stated they would cost when writing
me about them before he picked them up.
This certainly is much in my favor —

October 28th, 1913.

Mr. John Robinson,
118 Summer Street,
Salem, Mass.

My dear Mr. Robinson:-

Your letter of the 15th at hand, and I was very glad to hear from you. Mrs. Wood and I were very sorry not to get down to Salem while we were in Boston. The fact of the matter was we had a great deal more to attend to than we thought we would as nothing had been done by her people in settling up their household matters, and as my own family moved also, I was pretty busy at that end as well, in fact could not get to the convention.

Your check received for the three invoices from Ramsden, and I am returning you receipted bills. I should judge now you had a pretty good collection of Chinese and Japanese coin literature, and sometime I want to run through this.

I am awaiting with interest your catalogue of the numismatic publications that you are preparing, and I thank you in advance for the special copy.

Mr. Reilly is no longer at Salem, New Jersey. His address is John Reilly, Jr. 350 Broadway, New York.

I think copies should be sent to The Boston Public Library, Boston Athenaeum, Harvard College Library, our Society here in New York, The Chicago Numismatic Society, Yale College Library, Mint Collection, Philadelphia, The National Museum, Washington, Department of Coins, British Museum, London, The Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, The Royal Numismatic Society, London, England, Dr. Malcolm Storer, 302 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., Nehemiah Vreeland, 22 Prince Street, Patterson, N. J., George J. Bauer, 192 St. Paul Street, Rochester, N. Y., Harry E. Montgomery, 31 Erie County, Bank Building, Buffalo, N. Y., W. H. Valentine, 78 Frith Road, Leightonstone, E., England, Daniel F. Howorth, 24 Villiers Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, England. These are all I can think of for the present.

I do not know whether Stanley Lane Poole is living, or not. The last time I heard of him he was holding a chair in a University in Dublin. Lockhart I know nothing about.

The coin that Mehl is selling belongs to a Mr. Wright in California, but without knowing much or making any special study of the subject was more or less interested in oriental coins. I should judge by the catalogue that Mr. Wright is dead.

What you had to say about Dr. Culin's remarks amused me. Reilly was up here the other day, and I showed him that part of your letter. I think he had met as well so he took what the doctor had to say with a grain of salt. He put Culin down as one, although interested in Japanese and Chinese things, had absolutely no use for the natives, consequently had less use for any European marrying a Japanese. Reilly had

never had any indications that Ramsden was a robber or any of the other pleasant things that Culin laid up against him. Ramsden's shop was filled with lots of attractive Japanese novelties, coins and stamps that were common, but were arranged or fixed up very attractively, and which he held at a good price to travelers, and which presumably you and I would do if we were in the same business. However, until we have some kick coming, the opinions we form from experiences are the ones that we go by. Ramsden is a great talker. He has that English way of appearing to know everything, which, coupled with his enthusiasm, makes him at times somewhat overpowering. Most likely he outtalked Culin which made the latter sore.

I am returning Ramsden's letters, which I read with interest, and wish to thank you for sending them on.

Very truly,

Salem, Nov. 16, 1913

My dear Mr. Wood:

I was glad to get your nice letter and am writing now to say that the catalog is at last out and I am sending off the regular issue to persons and institutions, the half dozen copies in a little sweller binding did not get along with the rest so I shall not send the personal copy to you for a few days, that for the Humis. Soc. will go tomorrow. It looks very well and dignified enough for the memorial I intend it to be. Of course there are lots of errors but not visible to the ordinary observer. I omitted by mistake the 2 vols. of Madras museum catalog and I don't see how I did so. I went through the library twice, but things got put in and slipped by in that way. A few days ago I got the enclosed publication and extracted or rather excerpted the articles listed. I have copied the matter so send you the memorandum I made of it. I was glad to know what you and Reilly think of Culin. I don't think I told you how illbred he was when in Salem one time. He actually ran down Prof. Morse, my associate of many years at the museum right to my face when he knew Morse was my personal friend.

I enclose a check to cover the bills enclosed also. The
lot was very interesting and the bill you saw in the last
number of the new Japanese magazine. I think that these
republican coins will probable be quite scarce later on.
I don't think China can ever be other than a ditatorship
government nor do I Mexico or the Philippines.

I have addressed catalogs to all you suggested and if
you think of more, especially institutions, that should
have them kindly let me know. I have sent to most important
libraries. I am

Very Truly Yours

John R. Rinaldi

Sent me 17 mg

Dear Mr. Wood

I return your volume on Japanese
coins as I have used it as much
as I shall need at present - I
have ordered a copy - Accept many
thanks for the loan - In it
is a photo. of the E. & coin cabinet
for you - I hear nothing from
Chapman - Would extract from
old Dr. Bentley's diary (just issued

by the Inst. 1784-92), relating
to coins in circulation about
Salem then, be of interest?
I can copy out all the
records in those years if
you would like it —
Sincerely J. P. Nov 29.

There has just been presented to
the Essex Institute of Salem
by Mr. John Robinson, a member of the Association,
the fine collection of Oriental
manuscripts, a number of
the presentation of which is
especially appropriate to the Essex
Institute. For in the old
days the merchant ships of Salem
were engaged extensively in the
Oriental trade, and visited nearly
all the ports of India, Malaysia
and the Far East. Mr. Robinson for
several years has ^{therefore} made it
a point to collect a large number of
the Orient with considerable success.
The collection is permanent, and
is a room in the Institute, named
by a fund in memory of Frederick
Lambert Ward, a native of Salem
who lived in Europe with
the family Robinson.

consequently it had ^{not} been for ward the work
done later by Chinese Gordon and
not have been possible, for it was
only that organized the Chinese troops
that formed the nucleus of the
ever victorious army. The Chinese
collection is very happily situated
in this room replete with Eastern memories
and surrounded with by a collection
of books on Chinese and
Especially Chinese subjects.

The collection of coins is not large
when compared with some of the cabinets of
Oriental coins in Europe. The manu-
script catalogue contains over
2600 numbers and in detail is
roughly as follows - China 981
Japan 130, Korea and Dependencies 86,
Siam Sardinia 172, Japan 257
Lanka 97 India, Native and British, 276
Kerguelen 34, British East Indies 258, Straights,

Bornes etc. 27, ~~Other~~ Robinsonian
countries in general, 240. Besides
the coins, ^{Mr Robinson has presented} a very good numismatic
library, ~~under~~ many ornaments etc. ~~very~~
on the subject.

The institute provided a ~~commodious~~
cabinet containing 150 drawers with
a display section on top in which
a number of the drawers may be
placed.

Let us hope that this collection
will be the nucleus of a large
Oriental collection in this country.

Dear Mr Wood

I have found more
coins and medals among
the lot sent than I thought
it probable I should want.
I have taken very freely
and if you wish me to
disgorge any of them you
must say so. Later I may
find I shall not want
two or three I was in
doubt about, but it

^{will be}
be very few.

I have been unable to make
the thing check up, although
both your record and
the two papers I kept my
memo. upon did so.

I wish you would see if the
returned coins correspond
with the list. I can't
spend any more photographs
over it & send you a
check for the balance.

of the coins which the
returned list shows to be
out, the difference is small
& it is only a desire to
make the thing balance
that led me to bother
with it at all.

I have marked the
returned medals as
well as I could & hope
that they will do.

I shall await the
small coins with in-
terest - It will take me
longer to go over them -

Very truly
Yours
John Robinson

A.S. I have written
Chapman that I should
like to see the new
Chinese-Japan lot
if to get the coll.

My dear Mr. Wood -

I got around to the cabinet the last of the week and found that it was heavier than I thought + so will require a little stronger packing than I can give it at home - I am

therefore waiting until
Monday to have the
carpenter put some
strips around it

I will send it along
soon. I enclose The
Keys —

Elder sent the catalog at
last, — all wrong, — no
plates, irregular prices, &c.

one page unpriced, thin
cover & corners bent!!

Back it went and
heaven knows when it
will be replaced —

It is a small matter
but a poor acc. for
Elder— As to Adams,
he took less, — 40 cents
and never sent me
the priced catb. of that

Dear Mr. Wood

I am sending you a rough list of the coins I have here and may I ask you to price them if not too much trouble? I spent all day Sunday on the lot and classified them as well as I could.

I found them pretty well
mixed and I should say:-
all the old ones are copies;
nearly all the large Lung
and Ming are copies
and about six of the
Annals also -

The best things are in
the odd lots and in
Japan - I have priced
them all and am very
curious to see how we
shall agree on them -

I intended to include all
the Wang Wang as copies —

Sam King Taylor Jones
John Robinson

Dear Mr. Wood

I have just received from Mr. Ramsden an excellent example of the very earliest uninscribed Chinese spade money with long pointed toes, illustrated in Lacouperie as the first money of China. His price is \$14. and he says that it is very rare, which I know it to be, and that it is doubtful if another example can be found ~~even~~ at that price, at present certainly, if ever. One toe came broken, ~~the piece in the box~~. I am quite sure it must have been broken in transit for I opened the box at the other end and found it broken. The piece was there, however, in the box and can be attached to the spade without difficulty. Can I trouble you to tell me what you think I should do? My inclination is to get the piece as it is very important to add to my collection. I have written Mr. Ramsden giving him a complete catalog of the collection with copious notes and answers to his letters. I think it desirable to do as he suggests, - get such pieces as will well illustrate the earlier money of China, and he is to write me more fully in regard to the pieces he thinks desirable. No doubt you are picking up coins galore.

I am

Very Truly Yours

I owe you some postage, about 16 cents.

My dear Mr. Wood -

I send you a check for
the last lot from Mr. Ramsden
and shall keep the paper money
a few days to go over it
carefully - I am fascinated
with it. I can not un-
derstand how the Ning
piece can be original!
I had supposed that there
were but two or three in
existence, yet the J. K. B.
circular speaks of it as
general though rare -

I don't seem to me that \$5-
is high; in fact cheap —
Both Mr Dow & Prof Morse
were very much interested in
the lot —

Mr Ramsden has mounted,
beautifully & marked all
the genuine pairs of
knives & P. I sent for
inspection — He is a first
rate fellow. And must be
a great worker. Only 3
things I sent were fakes &
I felt pretty sure they were
before — I feel much grati-
fied & relieved at the

result. ^{any of the}
I want to bother you
with the catalog very
soon.

I want to get you to
suggest a rearrangement
of the groups I call
Western Asia and Mos-
hammedan - The last
is pretty good but the
former ought to be divided
- some of India ought
to go with it & some with
China as well -

The cat is reasonably well
and brings the writings of
authors together. I want
also, to get you to make
some notes as to the
value of certain books &
papers and offer all
sorts of criticisms you
can raise —

I will write again when
I have the thing in shape
for you to see. There will
be about 375 titles in
all. —
Sincerely,
L. B. [unclear]

Dear Mr. Wood

I feel very much indebted to you for coming to Salem and making the valuable suggestions regarding the bibliography. I have acted on them and have incorporated the Western Asia in the other groups and also have found that India in general was so small that I have put those books among the other India lot and so made one of the two. I think I shall also put the Indo-European and the East India Co. into one group, that is in the line of a suggestion of yours when we were looking them over.

I have also made up a list of wants and shall have them duplicated and get Mr. Dow to have them sent to several of the European dealers and see what can be picked up. Some are important, others are of little consequence. The thing is in such comparatively good shape now I can rest on it and wait until I get hold of some of the things I hope to pick up. I suppose Mr. Ramsden will be sending some from Japan by April.

Prof. Morse saw your collection of bills and was very glad to look them over and I think he will want to get Mr. Ramsden to send out a special lot of typical ones, say about 100. He wants to look over the ones he has here first. I shall return the package to you to day with many thanks for leaving with us. I am

Very Truly Yours



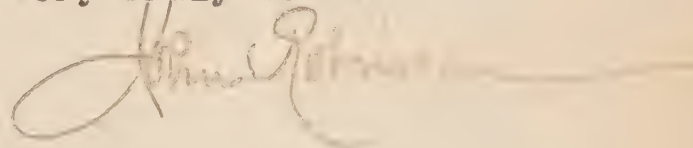
Full over Poole: Mohammadan Dynasties at full

Dear Mr. Wood

I enclose the extracts from Bentley. I put them in just as I find them and you can use them in part or not at all as you like. Who can the ^{Truly} Winthrop be and where has his collection gone? It must have been about the first cabinet of coins hereabouts. Old Bentley was much interested in curiosities and had a large collection and, in 1799, helped the Salem East India Marine Soc. start its collection and in the construction of its by laws. He was quite a man. His diary is in many volumes and, with other of his effects, is preserved at Worcester where he bequeathed his material. He did this, I have always understood, because he thought that Salem on the coast was too near the guns of the enemy, it being just after the war of 1812 that he died.

I am glad you are coming down early. The trains go at 12.30 and 12.40, both are good ones. We lunch, or in Salem dine at 1.30, so that will be just right. I fear that the Chinese coins are either poor or fakes. It is a curious collection. I am

Very Truly Yours



Monday AM, X/10.

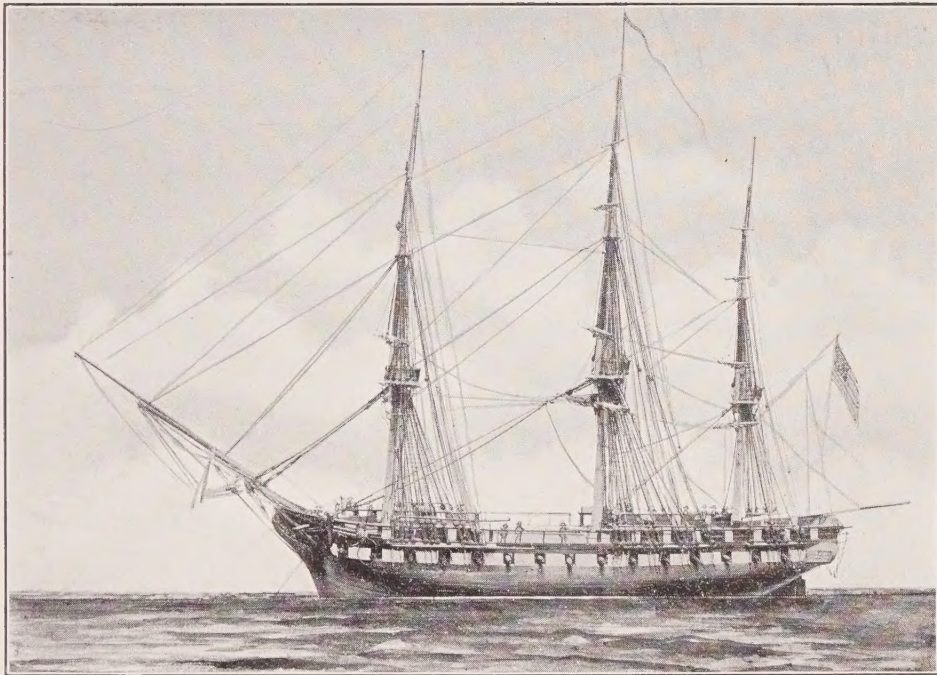
Dear Mr. Wood

I have just got your
note: the coins have not
come and I can not find
them at the express here
so conclude Chapman has
not sent them yet -
do not come to day -
I will let you know
when they come. In
haste Truly Yrs J. R. Davis

Monday am.
See 10.06

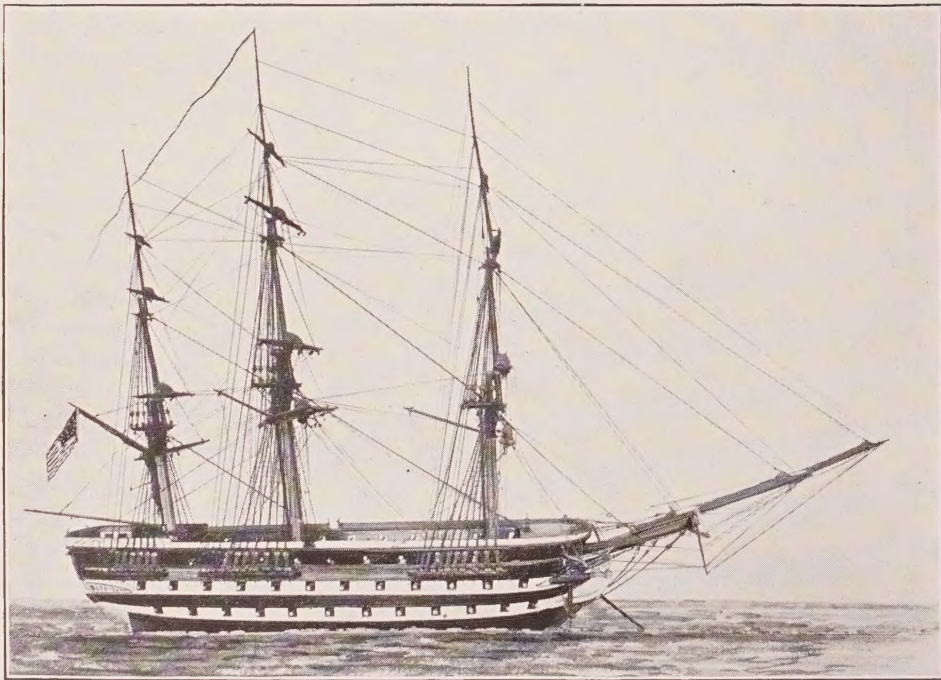
Dear Mr. Wood

The coins have not
come — Don't come to
Salem to night — Will
let you know as
soon as I receive
them — In haste
Yours
R. M. S.



The Frigate "Constitution"

Model, five feet long and as high, in the Marine Room of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, the gift, July, 1813, of Commodore Isaac Hull, the hero in the fight with the "Guerriere" in 1812. This is the earliest authentic representation of "Old Ironsides" known and is now being followed by the U. S. Naval authorities in the work of restoring the old ship. — Copyright, 1906, by Newcomb & Gauss, Salem



U. S. Ship-of-the-Line "OHIO"

2750 Tons, 74 Guns, 820 Men, launched at New York, 1820 and broken up after more than fifty years of service. A Battle-Ship of the early nineteenth century. Model, five feet long, in the Marine Room of the Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass., made about 1850 from accurate measurements by Enoch Fuller of Salem.



PEABODY MUSEUM, ESSEX ST., SALEM

EAST INDIA MARINE HALL

Salem, Mass. (Museum established 1799)

Built 1824, dedicated by President John Quincy Adams, 1825, purchased by the Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science 1868; containing, with additions since erected, large collections of local and general Natural History, Ethnology, and the Marine Room with models and paintings of the old time Salem ships and portraits of the old Salem Ship-Masters and Merchants. Open free to the public, daily, throughout the year.



HAWAIIAN IDOL

Over six feet high, in the Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass., carved from a single block of "Ohia" wood, resembling mahogany. One of three surviving images which, a century and more ago, guarded the sacrifices in a "Morai" or open air temple on the island of Hawaii.